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ABSTRACT

This Occupational Competency Analysis Profile (OCAP) contains a competency list verified by expert workers and developed through a modified DACUM (Developing a Curriculum) involving business, industry, labor, and community agency representatives from Ohio. This OCAP identifies the occupational, academic, and employability skills (competencies) needed to enter the dental assistant occupation. The competencies are clustered into 11 units that cover the following topics: infection control and hazards management; general health; emergency procedures; preventive dental assisting procedures; chairside assistance; dental specialties; dental laboratory procedures; dental office procedures; radiographic procedures; communications; and professionalism. In addition, employability competencies are grouped into 12 units: career development; decision making and problem solving; work ethic; job-seeking skills; job retention and career advancement skills; technology in the workplace; lifelong learning; economic education; balancing work and family; citizenship in the workplace; leadership; and entrepreneurship. The units detail the knowledge, skills, and attitudes (competency builders) needed to perform each competency. Within the competency list are two levels of items, core items essential for entry-level employment, and items needed to advance in dental assisting occupations. The OCAP guide also contains an academic job profile based on the Work Keys system that identifies the level of applied academic skills that students must master to qualify for and be successful in their occupations; a total list of academic competencies in communication, mathematics, and science that all students must master; and a specific list of academic competencies needed for dental assisting. (KC)

ED 388 868

OCAP

OCCUPATIONAL COMPETENCY ANALYSIS PROFILE

DENTAL ASSISTANT

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Introduction

What is an OCAP?

According to the *Action Plan for Accelerating the Modernization of Vocational Education: Ohio's Future at Work*—

> A comprehensive and verified employer competency list will be developed and kept current for each program
>
> —Imperative 3, Objective 2—

The Occupational Competency Analysis Profiles (OCAPs) are the Ohio Division of Vocational and Adult Education's response to that objective.

OCAPs are competency lists—verified by expert workers—that evolve from a modified DACUM job analysis process involving business, industry, labor, and community agency representatives from throughout Ohio. The OCAP process is directed by the Vocational Instructional Materials Laboratory located at The Ohio State University's Center on Education and Training for Employment.

How is the OCAP used?

Each OCAP identifies the occupational, academic, and employability skills (or competencies) needed to enter a given occupation or occupational area. The OCAP not only lists the *competencies* but also clusters those competencies into broader *units* and details the knowledge, skills, and attitudes (*competency builders*) needed to perform each competency.

Within the competency list are two levels of items: core and advancing. *Core items*, which are essential for entry-level employment, are required to be taught and are the basis for questions on the Ohio Vocational Competency Assessment (OVCA). *Advancing items* (marked with an asterisk) are those needed to advance in a given occupation.

School districts may add as many units, competencies, and/or competency builders as desired to reflect local employment needs, trends, and specialties. Local advisory committees should be actively involved in the identification and verification of additional items. Vocational and applied academic instructors will be able to formulate their courses of study using the varied contents of the OCAP and will be able to monitor competency gains via the new criterion-referenced competency testing program, which is tied to the competencies identified on the OCAP.

Notes

Occupational Competency Analysis Profile:

Dental Assistant

Unit 1: Infection Control and Hazards Management

Competency 1.1: Demonstrate knowledge of state and federal regulations governing infection control and hazards management

Competency Builders:

1.1.1 Identify current Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations
1.1.2 Identify current Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations
1.1.3 Identify current Ohio Dental Practice Act (ODPA) regulations
1.1.4 Identify references and resource materials related to infection control and hazards management (e.g., MSDSs, poison control toll-free number, Center for Disease Control toll-free number, state board of health office)

Competency 1.2: Maintain personal safety and hygiene

Competency Builders:

1.2.1 Use eye protection
1.2.2 Wear gloves
1.2.3 Wear mask
1.2.4 Wear protective clothing
1.2.5 Follow universal precautions guidelines (CDC/OSHA)
1.2.6 Maintain personal health, hygiene, and appearance

Competency 1.3: Dispose of waste materials in compliance with OSHA regulations

Competency Builders:

1.3.1 Practice universal precautions
1.3.2 Dispose of paper and plastic supplies and gloves
1.3.3 Dispose of sharps and carpules (i.e., cartridges)
1.3.4 Identify waste considered infectious
1.3.5 Dispose of infectious waste
1.3.6 Identify waste considered hazardous
1.3.7 Dispose of hazardous waste

Competency 1.4: Maintain infection control of work area

Competency Builders:

1.4.1 Open/close operatory
1.4.2 Contain soiled protective clothing and towels
1.4.3 Clean/disinfect sink
1.4.4 Clean/disinfect counter surfaces
1.4.5 Check condition of floors
1.4.6 Clean spills and dropped items from floors

Competency 1.5: Maintain dental equipment and instruments in clean/sterile condition

Competency Builders:

1.5.1 Follow manufacturer's instructions for sterilizing and maintaining equipment
1.5.2 Follow manufacturer's instructions for use of disinfection products
1.5.3 Identify different sterilization methods
1.5.4 Disinfect dental chair and unit (e.g., overhead light, sink, instrument tray)
1.5.5 Flush waterlines
1.5.6 Disinfect evacuation system
1.5.7 Maintain infection control in cabinets and drawers
1.5.8 Predisinfect instruments
1.5.9 Sterilize instruments using sterilization equipment
1.5.10 Maintain sterilization equipment
1.5.11 Store sterilized dental equipment and supplies

Unit 2: General Health

Competency 2.1: Take health histories

Competency Builders:

2.1.1 Interview patient to obtain medical and dental histories
2.1.2 Record new or updated information concerning medical and dental histories
2.1.3 Inform doctor of patient's medical and dental histories
2.1.4 Alert doctor to changes in patient's medical history/medications

Competency 2.2: Measure/record vital signs

Competency Builders:

2.2.1 Measure/record blood pressure
2.2.2 Measure/record pulse
2.2.3 Measure/record respiration
2.2.4 Measure/record heart rate
2.2.5 Measure/record oral temperature

Unit 3: Emergency Procedures

Competency 3.1: Perform medical emergency procedures

Competency Builders:

3.1.1 Identify procedures to be followed in the event of office emergencies
3.1.2 Maintain inventory and condition of medical emergency supplies and equipment
3.1.3 Follow first-responder procedures
3.1.4 Acquire/maintain first-aid certification
3.1.5 Acquire/maintain cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification
3.1.6 Record emergency treatment on patient's chart

Competency 3.2: Assist with dental emergencies

Competency Builders:

3.2.1 Assist with triage
3.2.2 Assist with endodontic emergencies
3.2.3 Assist with periodontal emergencies
3.2.4 Assist with treatment of trauma
3.2.5 Assist with complications related to oral surgery

Unit 4: Preventive Dental Assisting Procedures

Competency 4.1: Assist with prophylaxis

Competency Builders:

4.1.1 Practice universal precautions and infection control
4.1.2 Prepare prophylaxis and examination setup
4.1.3 Prepare saliva ejector or high vacuum evacuator (HVE)
4.1.4 Prepare patient for prophylaxis
4.1.5 Interact with patient (e.g., develop trust, explain dental procedures to be performed, encourage acceptance, answer questions)
4.1.6 Remove debris using a saliva ejector or HVE
4.1.7 Assist with scaling (ultrasonic, manual)
4.1.8 Assist with caries detection
4.1.9 Record perio charting
4.1.10 Assist with cleaning and polishing of removable appliances
4.1.11 Pass/receive instruments and floss
4.1.12 Assist with polishing
4.1.13 Follow established procedures for aspirating, retracting, rinsing and drying oral cavity
4.1.14 Administer topical fluoride
4.1.15 Instruct patient in preventive procedures (e.g., home care, fluoride rinses)
4.1.16 Record treatment on patient's chart

Competency 4.2: Instruct patients about oral hygiene and nutrition

Competency Builders:

4.2.1 Follow manufacturer's instructions concerning storage and use of dental products
4.2.2 Prepare brushing and flossing setups
4.2.3 Interact with patients
4.2.4 Demonstrate use of disclosing agents
4.2.5 Demonstrate recommended brushing techniques
4.2.6 Demonstrate recommended flossing techniques
4.2.7 Demonstrate use of oral hygiene aids
4.2.8 Provide patients with product information
4.2.9 Inform patients about adverse effects of specific oral habits (e.g., tobacco use, thumb sucking, bruxism) per doctor's instructions*
4.2.10 Instruct patients in care and removal of fixed and removable appliances
4.2.11 Instruct patients concerning proper nutrition and diet
4.2.12 Record treatments, patient instructions, referrals, and medications prescribed on each patient's chart

Competency 4.3: Assist with pit and fissure sealants

Competency Builders:

4.3.1 Follow manufacturer's instructions for storage and use of sealants
4.3.2 Prepare setup for pit and fissure sealant
4.3.3 Instruct patient concerning use of pit and fissure sealant
4.3.4 Assist with sealant preparation
4.3.5 Assist with placement of sealant
4.3.6 Record treatment on patient's chart

Unit 5: Chairside Assistance

Competency 5.1: Prepare patients for examination or treatment

Competency Builders:

5.1.1 Secure patient's chart
5.1.2 Prepare operatory
5.1.3 Greet patient
5.1.4 Seat patient
5.1.5 Assist patients with special needs (e.g., physically challenged)
5.1.6 Review patient's health history
5.1.7 Explain treatment plan to patient
5.1.8 Position patient for examination or treatment
5.1.9 Drape patient according to treatment
5.1.10 Maintain clear field of vision for doctor
5.1.11 Position operator and assistant stools

Competency 5.2: Provide evacuation and retraction in compliance with OSHA, EPA and ODPA

Competency Builders:

5.2.1 Practice universal precautions
5.2.2 Interact with patient
5.2.3 Provide for patient safety and comfort during dental assisting procedures
5.2.4 Follow established procedures for placement, operation, and control of high-volume/low-volume evacuator
5.2.5 Retract tissue
5.2.6 Follow established procedures for operation of air-water syringe
5.2.7 Perform equipment maintenance and disinfection

Competency 5.3: Transfer instruments (four-handed dentistry)

Competency Builders:

5.3.1 Follow doctor's directions for transfer of instruments
5.3.2 Anticipate procedural steps
5.3.3 Grasp instruments during transfer according to position of use
5.3.4 Pass/receive instruments using established transfer zone
5.3.5 Maintain sequentially organized instrument tray

Competency 5.4: Assist with preliminary examinations

Competency Builders:

5.4.1 Practice universal precautions
5.4.2 Prepare basic setup
5.4.3 Measure/record vital signs
5.4.4 Record/update patient's health history
5.4.5 Interact with patient
5.4.6 Prepare setup for preliminary impressions
5.4.7 Take preliminary impressions
5.4.8 Record oral condition on patient's chart
5.4.9 Chart patient's teeth
5.4.10 Assist with oral cancer screening
5.4.11 Assist with diagnostic tests and aids (e.g., dental photos, oral cancer procedures, and pulp tests)

Competency 5.5: Assist with the administration of anesthetics

Competency Builders:

5.5.1 Practice universal precautions
5.5.2 Prepare anesthetic setup
5.5.3 Load syringe per doctor's instructions
5.5.4 Interact with patient
5.5.5 Apply topical anesthetic
5.5.6 Assist with intravenous sedation*
5.5.7 Assist with administration of nitrous oxide*
5.5.8 Monitor patient's respiration rate and behavior
5.5.9 Record treatment on patient's chart

Competency 5.6: Assist with the application of rubber dams

Competency Builders:

5.6.1 Practice universal precautions
5.6.2 Prepare setup for rubber dam application and removal
5.6.3 Prepare rubber dam
5.6.4 Explain procedure to patient
5.6.5 Assist with installation of rubber dam in accordance with ODPA regulations
5.6.6 Remove rubber dam

Competency 5.7: Assist with anterior restoration and aesthetic dental procedures

Competency Builders:

5.7.1 Practice universal precautions
5.7.2 Assist during cavity/tooth preparation
5.7.3 Assist with shade and materials selection
5.7.4 Prepare setup for cavity liners
5.7.5 Prepare setup for acid etch and bonding procedures
5.7.6 Assist with acid etch and bonding procedures
5.7.7 Assist with preparation and placement of restoration materials

Continued

Competency 5.7: ***Assist with anterior restoration and aesthetic dental procedures—Continued***

5.7.8 Assist with finishing and polishing of restoration
5.7.9 Record treatment on patient's chart

Competency 5.8: Assist with in-office bleaching procedures

Competency Builders:

5.8.1 Practice universal precautions
5.8.2 Interact with patient
5.8.3 Record present shade of teeth
5.8.4 Follow manufacturer's directions for use of bleaching solution
5.8.5 Isolate teeth
5.8.6 Assist with solution application
5.8.7 Monitor bleaching process
5.8.8 Instruct patient in postoperative care
5.8.9 Record treatment on patient's chart

Competency 5.9: Assist with home bleaching procedures

Competency Builders:

5.9.1 Practice universal precautions
5.9.2 Instruct patient in home bleaching procedure in accordance with doctor's orders
5.9.3 Record present shade of teeth
5.9.4 Follow manufacturer's directions for use of bleaching solution
5.9.5 Prepare setup for taking impression
5.9.6 Assist with taking impression
5.9.7 Pour model
5.9.8 Trim model
5.9.9 Fabricate tray
5.9.10 Trim tray
5.9.11 Record treatment on patient's chart

Competency 5.10: Assist with posterior restorations

Competency Builders:

5.10.1 Practice universal precautions
5.10.2 Assist during cavity preparation
5.10.3 Prepare setup for cavity liners
5.10.4 Prepare setup for amalgam filling procedure
5.10.5 Prepare setup for composite filling procedure
5.10.6 Prepare for cavity filling
5.10.7 Assist with preparation and placement of materials
5.10.8 Assist while amalgam is carved
5.10.9 Provide patient with postoperative instructions
5.10.10 Prepare setup for finishing and polishing amalgam restoration
5.10.11 Prepare setup for finishing and polishing composite restoration
5.10.12 Assist with finishing and polishing restoration
5.10.13 Record treatment on patient's chart

Unit 6: Dental Specialties

Competency 6.1: Assist with pediatric dentistry

Competency Builders:

6.1.1 Practice universal precautions
6.1.2 Interact with patient
6.1.3 Prepare setup for pediatric examination
6.1.4 Assist with pediatric examination
6.1.5 Prepare setup for topical fluoride application
6.1.6 Assist with topical fluoride application
6.1.7 Prepare setup for placement of stainless steel crown
6.1.8 Assist with placement of stainless steel crown
6.1.9 Prepare setup for placement of space maintainer
6.1.10 Assist with placement of space maintainer
6.1.11 Prepare setup for pulpectomy procedures
6.1.12 Assist with pulpectomy procedures
6.1.13 Prepare setup for pit and fissure sealant
6.1.14 Assist with pit and fissure sealant placement
6.1.15 Record treatment on patient's chart

Competency 6.2: Assist with orthodontics

Competency Builders:

6.2.1 Practice universal precautions
6.2.2 Interact with patient
6.2.3 Prepare orthodontic setup
6.2.4 Make preliminary impressions for diagnostic models
6.2.5 Prepare setups for first and second separation appointments
6.2.6 Prepare setup for banding and bracketing appointment
6.2.7 Preselect orthodontic bands and wires using diagnostic model*
6.2.8 Assist with banding and bracketing procedures
6.2.9 Prepare setup for removal of orthodontic bands
6.2.10 Assist with removal of orthodontic bands
6.2.11 Prepare setup for adjusting orthodontic appliances
6.2.12 Assist with adjusting orthodontic appliances
6.2.13 Assist with replacing orthodontic arch wire
6.2.14 Prepare setup for placement of space maintainer
6.2.15 Instruct orthodontic patient about special preventive measures
6.2.16 Record treatment on patient's chart

Competency 6.3: Assist with endodontics

Competency Builders:

6.3.1 Practice universal precautions
6.3.2 Interact with patient
6.3.3 Prepare setup for rubber dam placement
6.3.4 Assist with rubber dam placement
6.3.5 Prepare setup for endodontic examination
6.3.6 Assist with endodontic examination
6.3.7 Prepare setup for opening of pulp cavity, removal of diseased pulp, and root canal enlargement
6.3.8 Assist with opening of pulp cavity, removal of diseased pulp, and root canal enlargement
6.3.9 Measure reamers and files
6.3.10 Assist with sterilizing and drying of canal
6.3.11 Assist with placement of medicaments
6.3.12 Assist with root canal filling
6.3.13 Prepare setup for endodontic surgery
6.3.14 Assist with endodontic surgery
6.3.15 Record treatment on patient's chart

Competency 6.4: Assist with oral surgery

Competency Builders:

6.4.1 Practice universal precautions
6.4.2 Interact with patient
6.4.3 Prepare patient for oral surgery
6.4.4 Prepare setup for oral surgery
6.4.5 Assist with anesthesia*
6.4.6 Assist with intravenous sedation*
6.4.7 Assist with analgesia (e.g., N_2O)*
6.4.8 Prepare setup for implant*
6.4.9 Assist with implant*
6.4.10 Prepare setup for incision and drainage
6.4.11 Assist with incision and drainage
6.4.12 Prepare setup for surgical irrigation
6.4.13 Assist with surgical irrigation
6.4.14 Prepare setup for biopsy
6.4.15 Assist with biopsy
6.4.16 Prepare setup for sutures
6.4.17 Assist with suturing
6.4.18 Give postoperative instructions
6.4.19 Remove sutures
6.4.20 Record treatment on patient's chart

Competency 6.5: Assist with periodontics

Competency Builders:

6.5.1 Practice universal precautions
6.5.2 Interact with patient
6.5.3 Prepare periodontics setup
6.5.4 Assist with periodontic examination
6.5.5 Assist with scaling and subgingival curettage
6.5.6 Assist with periodontal surgery
6.5.7 Prepare setup for periodontal dressing
6.5.8 Assist with placement of periodontal dressing
6.5.9 Assist with removal of periodontal dressing
6.5.10 Instruct patient in home care procedures
6.5.11 Record treatment on patient's chart

Competency 6.6: Assist with removable prosthodontics

Competency Builders:

6.6.1 Practice universal precautions
6.6.2 Prepare prosthodontics setup
6.6.3 Make preliminary impression
6.6.4 Assist with final impression
6.6.5 Construct occlusal rims
6.6.6 Assist with occlusal registration and tooth selection
6.6.7 Assist with denture/partial try-in
6.6.8 Assist with denture/partial insertion
6.6.9 Instruct patient in prosthesis care
6.6.10 Assist with denture/partial adjustment
6.6.11 Assist with denture/partial repair
6.6.12 Record treatment on patient's chart

Competency 6.7: Assist with fixed prosthodontics

Competency Builders:

6.7.1 Practice universal precautions
6.7.2 Interact with patient
6.7.3 Prepare patient
6.7.4 Prepare setup for operative procedure
6.7.5 Make preliminary impression
6.7.6 Assist with gingival retraction
6.7.7 Assist with final impression for crown and bridge
6.7.8 Assist with crown and bridge try-in and shade selection
6.7.9 Assist with occlusal registration
6.7.10 Assist with fabrication of provisional restoration
6.7.11 Construct provisional crown on model
6.7.12 Trim provisional crown
6.7.13 Prepare setup for provisional crown and bridge cementation
6.7.14 Assist with provisional crown and bridge cementation
6.7.15 Preselect stainless steel and provisional crowns using diagnostic model
6.7.16 Instruct patient in care and maintenance of provisional restoration

Continued

Competency 6.7: ***Assist with fixed prosthodontics—****Continued*

6.7.17 Prepare setup for crown and bridge cementation
6.7.18 Assist with crown and bridge cementation
6.7.19 Prepare setup for occlusal equilibration of restoration
6.7.20 Assist with occlusal equilibration of restoration
6.7.21 Instruct patient in postoperative care
6.7.22 Record treatment on patient's chart

Competency 6.8: Contribute to public health dentistry

Competency Builders:

6.8.1 Identify various special populations needing oral health care and education
6.8.2 Identify resources for information concerning oral health care
6.8.3 Present information on oral health care to school or community groups
6.8.4 Set up portable dental equipment*
6.8.5 Assist doctor in public health clinics, hospitals, schools, and nursing homes

Unit 7: Dental Laboratory Procedures

Competency 7.1: Fabricate gypsum models

Competency Builders:

7.1.1 Practice universal precautions
7.1.2 Select gypsum material
7.1.3 Apply mathematical ratios
7.1.4 Pour models
7.1.5 Trim models
7.1.6 Articulate models
7.1.7 Clean dental lab plaster trap
7.1.8 Fabricate mouthguards
7.1.9 Fabricate provisional restorations on a model

Competency 7.2: Construct custom trays

Competency Builders:

7.2.1 Assemble materials and equipment
7.2.2 Adapt/prepare spacer medium
7.2.3 Adapt acrylic
7.2.4 Trim finished trays

Competency 7.3: Manage the shipping and receiving of laboratory cases

Competency Builders:

7.3.1 Complete laboratory authorizations
7.3.2 Package cases for shipment
7.3.3 Determine postage required
7.3.4 Coordinate receipt of laboratory cases with patients' appointment schedules

Unit 8: Dental Office Procedures

Competency 8.1: Perform reception duties

Competency Builders:

8.1.1 Open office
8.1.2 Monitor office neatness
8.1.3 Manage reception area
8.1.4 Demonstrate telephone techniques
8.1.5 Greet/dismiss visitors and patients
8.1.6 Assist patients with special needs (e.g., physically challenged)
8.1.7 Manage children accompanying patients
8.1.8 Screen non-patient visitors
8.1.9 Explain delays to patients
8.1.10 Operate office equipment
8.1.11 Maintain office equipment
8.1.12 Manage correspondence
8.1.13 Maintain patient record files
8.1.14 Close office

Competency 8.2: Manage information using computer applications

Competency Builders:

8.2.1 Access needed operating information using manufacturer's manuals, software documentation, and other reference materials
8.2.2 Power up/power down computer
8.2.3 Enter patient information
8.2.4 Save patient information
8.2.5 Print patient records
8.2.6 Generate backup files

Competency 8.3: Maintain appointment books

Competency Builders:

8.3.1 Prepare appointment book
8.3.2 Coordinate appointments (e.g., prophylaxis, posterior restoration, specialty treatments)
8.3.3 Maintain recall system
8.3.4 Confirm appointments
8.3.5 Make referral appointments for patients

Competency 8.4: Perform financial duties

Competency Builders:

8.4.1 Apply basic mathematical skills
8.4.2 Apply basic bookkeeping fundamentals
8.4.3 Interact with patients
8.4.4 Review insurance coverage with patients*
8.4.5 Explain doctor's fees
8.4.6 Arrange financial agreements with patients*
8.4.7 Post ledger entries
8.4.8 Prepare billing statements
8.4.9 Collect fees
8.4.10 Issue receipts and quick-claim forms
8.4.11 Maintain petty cash account
8.4.12 Prepare bank deposits
8.4.13 Verify invoices for accounts payable
8.4.14 Collect delinquent bills*
8.4.15 Collect payments
8.4.16 Post payments
8.4.17 Maintain accounts receivable*
8.4.18 Maintain accounts payable*
8.4.19 Write checks for accounts payable*
8.4.20 Process credit card transactions
8.4.21 Prepare checks for doctor's signature
8.4.22 Prepare payrolls*
8.4.23 Reconcile bank statements*
8.4.24 Reconcile cash and receipts*
8.4.25 Prepare schedules of accounts receivable*
8.4.26 Prepare schedules of accounts payable*
8.4.27 Complete financial reports*
8.4.28 Process third-party/insurance forms
8.4.29 Report treatment information using established procedure codes
8.4.30 Set up system to track claims*
8.4.31 Log/track claims*
8.4.32 Maintain file of insurance claim forms*

Competency 8.5: Maintain inventory and supplies

Competency Builders:

8.5.1 Apply basic mathematical skills
8.5.2 Implement inventory control system in compliance with OSHA/EPA regulations
8.5.3 Maintain supply levels
8.5.4 Prepare purchase requisitions for needed supplies
8.5.5 Monitor expendables
8.5.6 Monitor nonexpendables
8.5.7 Monitor capital equipment inventory
8.5.8 Schedule routine equipment maintenance and repairs

Unit 9: Radiographic Procedures

NOTE: During training, students are exempt from Ohio State Dental Board age regulations regarding radiographic procedures. However, practitioners must be *18 years old to obtain a license* to perform these procedures.

Competency 9.1: Demonstrate knowledge of radiation safety procedures

Competency Builders:

9.1.1 Identify radiation safety precautions for patients (OSHA/EPA)
9.1.2 Identify radiation safety precautions for operators (OSHA/EPA)
9.1.3 Identify safety regulations for radiation equipment (OSHA/EPA)
9.1.4 Identify Ohio Dental Practice Act regulations concerning radiation safety

Competency 9.2: Expose films

Competency Builders:

9.2.1 Practice universal precautions
9.2.2 Follow manufacturer's specifications for film and equipment placement (e.g., storage, shelf-life)
9.2.3 Select accessories for radiographic procedures
9.2.4 Prepare accessories for radiographic procedures
9.2.5 Comply with OSHA/ODPA regulations concerning patient and operator safety during radiation procedures
9.2.6 Follow exposure guidelines
9.2.7 Position patient
9.2.8 Identify radiographic anatomical landmarks
9.2.9 Select film size and speed
9.2.10 Position film
9.2.11 Produce radiograph using bisecting-the-angle technique
9.2.12 Produce radiograph using paralleling technique

Competency 9.3: Process radiographs manually

Competency Builders:

9.3.1 Practice universal precautions
9.3.2 Follow manufacturer's instructions for equipment operation
9.3.3 Comply with OSHA/EPA regulations for mixing and disposal of solutions used in developing and fixing radiographs
9.3.4 Follow established darkroom procedures in developing, fixing, and drying radiographic film
9.3.5 Comply with OSHA/EPA safety regulations for prevention of eye injuries and minor burns
9.3.6 Clean/disinfect equipment

Competency 9.4: Process radiographs automatically

Competency Builders:

9.4.1 Practice universal precautions
9.4.2 Comply with OSHA/EPA regulations concerning use of radiographic equipment and solutions
9.4.3 Follow manufacturer's instructions for operation of automatic developer
9.4.4 Follow established darkroom procedures in developing, fixing, and drying radiographic film

Competency 9.5: Manage the mounting, duplication, and storage of radiographs

Competency Builders:

9.5.1 Handle film in accordance with established procedures
9.5.2 Place radiographs in mounts
9.5.3 Label mounts
9.5.4 Store mounted radiographs
9.5.5 Duplicate radiographs for documentation

Unit 10: Communications

Competency 10.1: Apply basic communication skills

Competency Builders:

10.1.1 Follow written and oral instructions
10.1.2 Clarify instructions
10.1.3 Apply basic grammar rules in written communications
10.1.4 Utilize standard dental, medical, and pharmacological terminology in written communications
10.1.5 Proofread documents
10.1.6 Edit documents
10.1.7 Correct documents based on proofreading/editing
10.1.8 Employ verbal and nonverbal communication skills
10.1.9 Apply listening skills
10.1.10 Apply team concepts

Competency 10.2: Document information

Competency Builders:

10.2.1 Collect data
10.2.2 Organize data
10.2.3 Draft documents in accordance with basic grammar rules
10.2.4 Utilize standard dental, medical, and pharmacological terminology in documenting information

Competency 10.3: Apply oral communication skills

Competency Builders:

10.3.1 Evaluate audience
10.3.2 Organize thoughts
10.3.3 Apply basic grammar rules in oral communications
10.3.4 Utilize standard dental, medical, and pharmacological terminology in oral communications
10.3.5 Speak clearly
10.3.6 Give orders, directions, and instructions
10.3.7 Demonstrate humanistic skills
10.3.8 Instill patient confidence

Unit 11: Professionalism

Competency 11.1: Demonstrate adherence to established professional work ethics

Competency Builders:

11.1.1 Follow the ethical principles adopted by the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) and ODPA
11.1.2 Maintain a positive attitude
11.1.3 Demonstrate punctuality
11.1.4 Demonstrate dependability
11.1.5 Demonstrate flexibility
11.1.6 Demonstrate loyalty
11.1.7 Demonstrate honesty
11.1.8 Demonstrate initiative
11.1.9 Demonstrate self-confidence
11.1.10 Employ characteristics and responsibilities of teamwork
11.1.11 Participate in staff meetings
11.1.12 Participate in the democratic process
11.1.13 Maintain confidentiality in handling discretionary issues
11.1.14 Employ established time-management and organizational techniques
11.1.15 Employ established decision-making, problem-solving, and prioritizing techniques

Competency 11.2: Assist in the achievement of the employer's goals

Competency Builders:

11.2.1 Determine own responsibility in relation to employer's goals
11.2.2 Set own performance standards for each goal
11.2.3 Discuss goals with employer
11.2.4 Accomplish job tasks
11.2.5 Monitor progress based on feedback received

Competency 11.3: Demonstrate professional and career development

Competency Builders:

11.3.1 Demonstrate professionalism (e.g., appearance, courtesy, attitudes, and communication skills)
11.3.2 Examine career opportunities
11.3.3 Develop career goals
11.3.4 Develop mentor relationships
11.3.5 Manage personal professional growth
11.3.6 Participate in continuing education and/or training meetings, workshops, conferences, and professional organizations
11.3.7 Acquire state and national credentials

Occupational Competency Analysis Profile:

Employability

Unit 1: Career Development

Competency 1.1: Investigate career options

Competency Builders:

1.1.1 Determine interests and aptitudes
1.1.2 Identify career options
1.1.3 Research interests, knowledge, abilities, and skills needed in an occupation
1.1.4 Select careers that best match interests and aptitudes
1.1.5 Identify advantages and disadvantages of career options, including self-employment and nontraditional careers

Competency 1.2: Utilize career information

Competency Builders:

1.2.1 Identify a range of career information resources
1.2.2 Use a range of resources to obtain career information (e.g., handbooks, career materials, labor market information, and computerized career-information delivery systems)
1.2.3 Demonstrate knowledge of various classification systems that categorize occupations and industries (e.g., *Dictionary of Occupational Titles*)
1.2.4 Describe the educational requirements of various occupations
1.2.5 Identify individuals in selected occupations as possible information resources, role models, or mentors
1.2.6 Describe the impact of factors such as population, climate, employment trends, and geographic location on occupational opportunities
1.2.7 Assess differences in the wages, benefits, annual incomes, cost of living, and job opportunties associated with selected career options
1.2.8 Determine labor market projections for selected career options

Competency 1.3: Participate in a career exploration activity

Competency Builders:

1.3.1 Identify career exploration activities (e.g., job shadowing, mentoring, volunteer experiences, part-time employment, and cooperative education)
1.3.2 Compare traits, skills, and characteristics required for specific career choices with individual's traits, skills, and characteristics
1.3.3 Recognize potential conflicts between personal characteristics and career choice areas
1.3.4 Describe the impact of exploration activities on current career choices

Competency 1.4: Assess the relationship between educational achievement and career planning

Competency Builders:

1.4.1 Describe how skills developed in academic and vocational programs relate to career goals
1.4.2 Describe how education relates to the selection of a college major, further training, and/or entry into the job market
1.4.3 Identify skills that can apply to a variety of occupational requirements
1.4.4 Explain the importance of possessing learning skills in the workplace

Competency 1.5: Develop an individual career plan

Competency Builders:

1.5.1 Identify career goal(s)
1.5.2 Identify worker conditions, education, training, and employment opportunities related to selected career goal(s)
1.5.3 Describe school and community resources available to help achieve career goal(s)
1.5.4 Identify career ladders possible within selected career goal(s)*
1.5.5 Identify additional experiences needed to move up identified career ladders*
1.5.6 Recognize that changes may require retraining and upgrading of employees' skills

Competency 1.6: Annually review/revise the individual career plan

Competency Builders:

1.6.1 Identify experiences that have reinforced selection of the specific career goal(s) listed on the individual career plan
1.6.2 Identify experiences that have changed the specific career goal(s) listed on the individual career plan
1.6.3 Modify the career goals(s) and educational plans on the individual career plan
1.6.4 Ensure that parents or guardians provide input into the individual career plan process
1.6.5 Identify the correlation between the individual career plan and the actual courses to be taken in high school
1.6.6 Identify the correlation between the individual career plan and postsecondary training, adult education, or employment

Unit 2: Decision Making and Problem Solving

Competency 2.1: Apply decision-making techniques in the workplace

Competency Builders:

2.1.1 Identify the decision to be made
2.1.2 Compare alternatives
2.1.3 Determine the consequences of each alternative
2.1.4 Make decisions based on values and goals
2.1.5 Evaluate the decision made

Competency 2.2: Apply problem-solving techniques in the workplace

Competency Builders:

2.2.1 Diagnose the problem, its urgency, and its causes
2.2.2 Identify alternatives and their consequences in relation to the problem
2.2.3 Recognize multicultural and nonsexist dimensions of problem solving
2.2.4 Explore possible solutions to the problem using a variety of resources
2.2.5 Compare/contrast the advantages and disadvantages of each solution
2.2.6 Determine appropriate action
2.2.7 Implement action
2.2.8 Evaluate results of action implemented

*Advancing

Unit 3: Work Ethic

Competency 3.1: Evaluate the relationship of self-esteem to work ethic

Competency Builders:

3.1.1 Identify special characteristics and abilities in self and others
3.1.2 Identify internal and external factors that affect self-esteem
3.1.3 Identify how individual characteristics relate to achieving personal, social, educational, and career goals
3.1.4 Identify the relationship between personal behavior and self-concept

Competency 3.2: Analyze the relationship of personal values and goals to work ethic both in and out of the workplace

Competency Builders:

3.2.1 Distinguish between values and goals
3.2.2 Determine the importance of values and goals
3.2.3 Evaluate how one's values affect one's goals
3.2.4 Identify own short- and long-term goals
3.2.5 Prioritize own short- and long-term goals
3.2.6 Identify how one's values are reflected in one's work ethic
3.2.7 Identify how interactions in the workplace affect one's work ethic
3.2.8 Identify how life changes affect one's work ethic

Competency 3.3: Demonstrate work ethic

Competency Builders:

3.3.1 Examine factors that influence work ethic
3.3.2 Display initiative
3.3.3 Demonstrate dependable attendance and punctuality
3.3.4 Demonstrate organizational skills
3.3.5 Adhere to schedules and deadlines
3.3.6 Demonstrate a willingness to learn
3.3.7 Demonstrate a willingness to accept feedback and evaluation
3.3.8 Demonstrate interpersonal skills required for working with and for others
3.3.9 Describe appropriate employer-employee interactions for various situations
3.3.10 Express feelings and ideas in an appropriate manner for the workplace

Competency 3.4: Demonstrate safety skills

Competency Builders:

3.4.1 Practice safe work habits
3.4.2 Identify safety hazards
3.4.3 Employ preventative safety measures
3.4.4 Demonstrate appropriate care and use of equipment and facilities to ensure safety
3.4.5 Comply with safety and emergency procedures

Unit 4: Job-Seeking Skills

Competency 4.1: Prepare for employment

Competency Builders:

4.1.1 Identify traditional and nontraditional employment sources
4.1.2 Utilize employment sources
4.1.3 Research job opportunities, including nontraditional careers
4.1.4 Interpret equal employment opportunity laws
4.1.5 Explain the critical importance of personal appearance, hygiene, and demeanor throughout the employment process
4.1.6 Prepare for generic employment tests and those specific to an occupation/organization

Competency 4.2: Develop a résumé

Competency Builders:

4.2.1 Identify personal strengths and weaknesses
4.2.2 List skills and/or abilities, career objective(s), accomplishments/achievements, educational background, work experience, volunteer/community contributions, and organizational memberships
4.2.3 Select an acceptable résumé format
4.2.4 Use correct grammar and spelling and concise wording
4.2.5 Secure references
4.2.6 Complete the résumé

Competency 4.3: Complete the job application process

Competency Builders:

4.3.1 Explain the importance of an application form
4.3.2 Obtain job application forms
4.3.3 Demonstrate appropriate behaviors (e.g., personal appearance, hygiene, and demeanor) for obtaining job application forms in person
4.3.4 Describe methods for handling illegal questions on job application forms
4.3.5 Demonstrate legible written communication skills using correct grammar and spelling and concise wording
4.3.6 Return application to appropriate person
4.3.7 Request interview
4.3.8 Follow up on application status

Competency 4.4: Demonstrate interviewing skills

Competency Builders:

4.4.1 Investigate interview procedures
4.4.2 Demonstrate appropriate behaviors (e.g. appearance, hygiene, and demeanor) for the interview
4.4.3 Demonstrate question-and-answer techniques
4.4.4 Demonstrate methods for handling difficult and/or illegal interview questions
4.4.5 Use correct grammar and concise wording

Competency 4.5: Secure employment

Competency Builders:

4.5.1 Identify present and future employment opportunities within an occupation/organization
4.5.2 Research the organization/company
4.5.3 Use follow-up techniques to enhance employment potential
4.5.4 Evaluate job offer(s)
4.5.5 Respond to job offer(s)

Unit 5: Job Retention and Career Advancement Skills

Competency 5.1: Analyze the organizational structure of the workplace

Competency Builders:

5.1.1 Identify employer expectations regarding job performance, work habits, attitudes, personal appearance, and hygiene
5.1.2 Comply with company policies and procedures
5.1.3 Examine the role/relationship between employee and employer
5.1.4 Recognize opportunities for advancement and reasons for termination
5.1.5 Recognize the organization's ethics.

Competency 5.2: Maintain positive relations with others

Competency Builders:

5.2.1 Exhibit appropriate work habits and attitudes
5.2.2 Identify behaviors for establishing successful working relationships
5.2.3 Cooperate through teamwork and group participation
5.2.4 Demonstrate a willingness to compromise
5.2.5 Identify methods for dealing with harassment, bias, and discrimination based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, disability, or age
5.2.6 Cooperate with authority
5.2.7 Accept supervision

Competency 5.3: Demonstrate accepted social and work behaviors

Competency Builders

5.3.1 Demonstrate a positive attitude
5.3.2 Demonstrate accepted conversation skills
5.3.3 Use good manners
5.3.4 Accept responsibility for assigned tasks
5.3.5 Demonstrate personal hygiene
5.3.6 Demonstrate knowledge of a position
5.3.7 Perform quality work

Competency 5.4: Analyze opportunities for personal and career growth*

Competency Builders:

5.4.1 Determine opportunities within chosen occupation/organization*
5.4.2 Determine other career opportunities outside chosen occupation/ organization*
5.4.3 Evaluate the factors involved in considering a new position within or outside an occupation/ organization*
5.4.4 Exhibit characteristics needed for advancement*

Unit 6: Technology in the Workplace

Competency 6.1: Demonstrate knowledge of technology issues

Competency Builders:

6.1.1 Demonstrate knowledge of the characteristics of technology
6.1.2 Demonstrate knowledge of how technology systems are applied
6.1.3 Assess the impact of technology on the individual, society, and environment
6.1.4 Demonstrate knowledge of the evolution of technology
6.1.5 Identify how people, information, tools and machines, energy, capital, physical space, and time influence the selection and use of technology
6.1.6 Identify legal and ethical issues related to technology (e.g., confidentiality, information sharing, copyright protection)

Competency 6.2: Demonstrate skills related to technology issues

Competency Builders:

6.2.1 Exhibit willingness to adapt to technological change
6.2.2 Utilize technological systems
6.2.3 Utilize a variety of resources and processes to solve technological problems
6.2.4 Employ higher-order thinking skills for solving technological problems
6.2.5 Work as a team member in solving technological problems
6.2.6 Use technology in a safe and responsible manner
6.2.7 Apply science, mathematics, communication, and social studies concepts to solve technological problems
6.2.8 Demonstrate ingenuity and creativity in the use of technology*
6.2.9 Utilize a formal method (systems approach) in solving technological problems*

Unit 7: Lifelong Learning

Competency 7.1: Apply lifelong learning practices to individual situations

Competency Builders:

7.1.1 Define lifelong learning
7.1.2 Identify factors that cause the need for lifelong learning
7.1.3 Identify changes that may require the retraining and upgrading of employee's skills
7.1.4 Identify avenues for lifelong learning
7.1.5 Participate in lifelong learning activities

Competency 7.2: Adapt to change

Competency Builders:

7.2.1 Analyze the causes and effects of change
7.2.2 Identify the effect of change on goals
7.2.3 Identify the importance of flexibility when reevaluating goals
7.2.4 Evaluate the need for lifelong learning experiences in adapting to change

Unit 8: Economic Education

Competency 8.1: Analyze how an economy functions as a whole

Competency Builders:

8.1.1 Describe how individuals and societies make choices to satisfy needs and wants with limited resources
8.1.2 Identify how production factors (land, labor, capital, and entrepreneurship) are used to produce goods and services
8.1.3 Illustrate how individuals and households exchange their resources for the income they use to buy goods and services
8.1.4 Explain how individuals and business firms use resources to produce goods and services to generate income
8.1.5 Identify characteristics of command, market, and traditional economies*
8.1.6 Describe how all levels of government assess taxes in order to provide services

Competency 8.2: Analyze how an economic system is a framework within which decisions are made by individuals and groups

Competency Builders:

8.2.1 List several individuals and groups that make economic decisions at the local, state, and national levels
8.2.2 Identify the important roles that local, state, and national governments play in a market economy

Continued

Competency 8.2: ***Analyze how an economic system is a framework within which decisions are made by individuals and groups—Continued***

8.2.3 List examples of how government decisions affect individuals
8.2.4 Identify how geographic locations affect the political and economic systems of the world
8.2.5 Evaluate how markets allocate goods and services
8.2.6 Explain how resources, goods, and services are exchanged in markets
8.2.7 Explain competition and its effect on the market

Competency 8.3: **Analyze the importance of making informed personal financial decisions**

Competency Builders:

8.3.1 Describe the need for personal management records
8.3.2 Create a personal budget
8.3.3 Create a budget for a family of four for one month
8.3.4 Explain how credit affects personal/family finances
8.3.5 Identify steps to avoid credit problems
8.3.6 Make informed consumer choices in response to personal needs and wants
8.3.7 Identify factors that influence consumer decisions (e.g., advertisements, peer groups, price, and location)
8.3.8 Explain the costs and benefits for individuals of various types of taxation at the local, state, and federal levels

Unit 9: Balancing Work and Family

Competency 9.1: **Analyze the effects of family on work**

Competency Builders:

9.1.1 Recognize how family values, goals, and priorities are reflected in the workplace
9.1.2 Identify present and future family structures and responsibilities
9.1.3 Describe personal and family roles
9.1.4 Analyze concerns of working parent(s)
9.1.5 Examine how family responsibilities can conflict with work
9.1.6 Identify ways to resolve family-related conflicts
9.1.7 Explain how to use support systems/community resources to help resolve family-related conflicts

Competency 9.2: **Analyze the effects of work on family**

Competency Builders:

9.2.1 Identify responsibilities associated with paid and nonpaid work
9.2.2 Compare the advantages and disadvantages of multiple incomes
9.2.3 Explain how work can conflict with family responsibilities
9.2.4 Explain how work-related stress can affect families
9.2.5 Identify family support systems and resources

Unit 10: Citizenship in the Workplace

Competency 10.1: Exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in the workplace

Competency Builders:

10.1.1 Identify the basic rights and responsibilities of citizenship in the workplace
10.1.2 Identify situations in which compromise is necessary
10.1.3 Examine how individuals from various backgrounds contribute to the workplace
10.1.4 Demonstrate initiative to facilitate cooperation
10.1.5 Give/receive constructive criticism to enhance cooperation

Competency 10.2: Prepare to work in a multicultural society

Competency Builders:

10.2.1 Identify ways to live in a multicultural society with mutual respect and appreciation for others
10.2.2 Examine how culture and experience create differences in people
10.2.3 Demonstrate respect for the contributions made by all people
10.2.4 Investigate personal cultural background as a means of developing self-respect
10.2.5 Make personal choices that reduce discrimination, isolation, and prejudice
10.2.6 Work effectively with people irrespective of their race, gender, religion, ethnicity, disability, age, or cultural background

Unit 11: Leadership

Competency 11.1: Evaluate leadership styles appropriate for the workplace

Competency Builders:

11.1.1 Identify characteristics of effective leaders
11.1.2 Compare leadership styles
11.1.3 Demonstrate effective delegation skills
11.1.4 Investigate empowerment concepts
11.1.5 Identify opportunities to lead in the workplace

Competency 11.2: Demonstrate effective teamwork skills

Competency Builders:

11.2.1 Identify the characteristics of a valuable team member
11.2.2 Identify methods of involving each team member
11.2.3 Contribute to team efficiency and success
11.2.4 Determine ways to motivate team members

Competency 11.3: Utilize effective communication skills

Competency Builders:

11.3.1 Identify the importance of listening
11.3.2 Demonstrate effective listening skills
11.3.3 Demonstrate assertive communication techniques
11.3.4 Recognize the importance of verbal and nonverbal cues and messages
11.3.5 Prepare written material
11.3.6 Analyze written material
11.3.7 Give/receive feedback
11.3.8 Communicate thoughts
11.3.9 Use appropriate language
11.3.10 Follow oral and written instructions
11.3.11 Demonstrate effective telephone techniques
11.3.12 Identify technology in communications

Unit 12: Entrepreneurship

Competency 12.1: Evaluate the role of small business

Competency Builders:

12.1.1 Identify the impact of small business on the local economy
12.1.2 Examine the relationship of small business to a national (USA) and global economy
12.1.3 Identify factors that contribute to the success of small business
12.1.4 Identify factors that contribute to the failure of small business
12.1.5 Identify the components of a business plan

Competency 12.2: Examine entrepreneurship as a personal career option

Competency Builders:

12.2.1 Evaluate personal interests and skills
12.2.2 Compare personal interests and skills with those necessary for entrepreneurship
12.2.3 Determine motives for becoming an entrepreneur
12.2.4 Identify the advantages and disadvantages of owning a small business
12.2.5 Compare business ownership to working for others

Notes

Academic Job Profile

The Purpose of Job Profiling

Developed by American College Testing (ACT), the purpose of the Job Profiling process is to identify the **level** of applied academic skills that, according to business and industry, students must master to qualify for and be successful in their occupation of choice. The results of Job Profile "leveling" can help teachers to better target instruction toward their students' needs.

As part of the Ohio Vocational Competency Assessment (OVCA) program, the Vocational Instructional Materials Laboratory (VIML) at The Ohio State University has conducted Job Profiling workshops in which representatives of business, industry, labor, and community organizations identified the academic skill levels needed by entry-level workers in the occupational areas covered by the OCAPs. The Job Profiling, which was carried out in spring 1994 and spring 1995, was sponsored by the Ohio Department of Education, Division of Vocational and Adult Education.

OVCA—What Is It?

The Ohio Vocational Competency Assessment (or OVCA) package consists of two assessment components: OCAP and Work Keys. Together they measure entry-level occupational, academic, and employability skills. All OVCA items are criterion-referenced, use a multiple-choice format, and are administered using a traditional paper-and-pencil method. The OVCA is designed to do the following:

- Provide one dimension of a multi-assessment strategy for career passport credentialing
- Evaluate learner readiness for jobs requiring specific occupational, academic, and employability skills
- Assist educators in curriculum development
- Provide state-aggregated learning gain scores to comply with the regulations in the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Act of 1990

OCAP. The OCAP component of OVCA assesses students in occupational skills—employment requirements—in a particular occupational area. Assessment is based on the core competencies identified through the OCAP process, and each multiple-choice assessment item is correlated to those essential competencies.

Work Keys. The Work Keys component, developed by ACT, measures students' applied academic skills. All OVCA packages contain two Work Keys assessments:

- *Applied Mathematics* measures students' ability to analyze, set up, and solve math problems typically found in the workplace.
- *Locating Information* measures students' ability to use graphic documents to insert, extract, and apply information.

In addition, certain taxonomies will use the following Work Keys assessments:

- *Reading for Information* will be used by Business, Marketing, Home Economics, Health Education, and Cosmetology taxonomies.
- *Applied Technology* will be used by Trade and Industrial and Agricultural Education taxonomies.

Other optional Work Keys assessments, not included in the basic OVCA package, are *Teamwork*, *Listening*, and *Writing*.

Each Work Keys assessment is further broken down into four to five levels of achievement, with higher numbers indicating higher achievement in the assessed skill (descriptions of the levels for each Work Keys assessment are provided on pp. 35-41). For each academic skill, the Job Profiling process identifies the level required for successful entry into an occupational area.

Job Profiling—How It Works

VIML's Job Profiling process was initiated by mailing surveys to current workers in OCAP occupations all across Ohio. The survey's purpose: to have actual workers in specific occupations rate job tasks according to each task's frequency and criticality—that is, the amount of time spent performing each task relative to other tasks and the importance of each task to overall job performance.

To complete the survey, participants examined OCAP competencies for their occupation. Based on the survey's results, VIML staff produced a list of the most critical competencies in each occupation.

The next stage of Job Profiling was to convene committees of subject-matter experts to perform "leveling," which involved the following tasks:

- Examining the frequency and criticality competency lists for an occupation
- Reviewing the levels associated with each of the seven Work Keys academic skills: *Locating Information, Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics, Applied Technology, Listening, Writing,* and *Teamwork*
- Identifying the level of skill students must master relative to each Work Keys academic skill in order to successfully perform the occupational competencies

Finally, in 1995, the initial leveling of Work Keys academic skills for the occupational area covered by this OCAP was revalidated by the new panel of expert workers convened to update the OCAP (see inside back cover).

Example of Job Profiling

For every occupational area, there are shaded graphs to represent each of the seven Work Keys academic skills. Each graph shows the range of levels for that particular skill; the shading represents the academic skill level required by an entry-level worker in that occupation, as determined by the Job Profiling committee. For example:

Applied Mathematics

In the example shown, Applied Mathematics has a skill range of 3–7. The required skill level, determined by Job Profiling and shown by the highlighting, is 6.

Academic Job Profile: Dental Assistant

Applied Mathematics

Locating Information

Reading for Information

Applied Technology

Teamwork

Listening

Writing

NOTE: Definitions of each level in each of the seven academic skill areas are provided on the pages that follow.

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Levels of Work Keys Defined

The skills needed to achieve each level for each of the seven Work Keys* academic skills are as follows.

Applied Mathematics

Applied Mathematics measures skill in applying mathematical reasoning to work-related problems. There are five levels of complexity, 3 through 7, with Level 3 being the least complex and Level 7 the most complex. The levels build on each other, each incorporating the skills at the preceding levels.

Level 3

- Perform basic mathematical operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) and conversions from one form to another, using whole numbers, fractions, decimals, or percentages.
- Translate simple verbal problems into mathematical equations.
- Directly apply logical information provided to solve problems, including those with measurements and dollars and cents.

Level 4

- Perform one or two mathematical operations (such as addition, subtraction, or multiplication) on several positive or negative numbers. (Division of negative numbers is not covered until Level 5.)
- Add commonly known fractions, decimals, or percentages (e.g., ½, .75, 25%) or add three fractions that share a common denominator.
- Calculate averages, simple ratios, proportions, and rates, using whole numbers and decimals.
- Reorder verbal information before performing calculations.
- Read simple charts or graphs to obtain information needed to solve a problem.

Level 5

- Look up and calculate single-step conversions within English or non-English measurement systems (e.g., converting ounces to pounds or centimeters to meters) or between measurement systems (e.g., converting centimeters to inches).
- Make calculations using mixed units (e.g., hours and minutes).
- Determine what information, calculations, and unit conversions are needed to find a solution.

Level 6

- Calculate using negative numbers, fractions, ratios, percentages, mixed numbers, and formulas.
- Identify and correct errors in calculations.
- Translate complex verbal problems into mathematical expressions, using considerable setup and multiple-step calculations or conversions.

Level 7

- Solve problems requiring multiple steps of logic and calculation.
- Solve problems involving more than one unknown, nonlinear functions (e.g., rate of change), and applications of basic statistical concepts (e.g., error of measurement).
- Locate errors in multiple-step calculations.
- Solve problems with unusual content or format, or with incomplete or implicit information.

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Locating Information

Locating Information measures skill in using information taken from workplace graphics such as diagrams, blueprints, floor plans, tables, forms, graphs, charts, and instrument gauges. There are four levels of complexity, 3 through 6, with Level 3 being the least complex and Level 6 the most complex. The levels build on each other, each incorporating the skills at the preceding levels.

Level 3

- Find one or two pieces of information in elementary workplace graphics, such as simple order forms, bar graphs, tables, flowcharts, and floor plans.
- Fill in one or two pieces of information that are missing from elementary workplace graphics.

Level 4

- Find several pieces of information in straightforward workplace graphics, such as basic order forms, line graphs, tables, instrument gauges, maps, flowcharts, and diagrams.
- Summarize and/or compare information and trends in a single straightforward graphic.
- Summarize and/or compare information and trends among more than one straightforward workplace graphic, such as a bar chart and a data table showing related information.

Level 5

- Summarize and/or compare information and trends in single complicated workplace graphics, such as detailed forms, tables, graphs, maps, instrument gauges, and diagrams.
- Summarize and/or compare information and trends among more than one complicated workplace graphic, such as a bar chart and a data table showing related information.

Level 6

- Make decisions, draw conclusions, and/or apply information to new situations using several related and complex workplace graphics that contain a great amount of information or have challenging presentations (e.g., very detailed graphs, charts, tables, forms, maps, blueprints, diagrams).

Reading for Information

Reading for Information measures skill in reading and understanding work-related reading materials. There are five levels of complexity, 3 through 7, with Level 3 being the least complex and Level 7 the most complex. Although Level 3 is the least complex, it still represents a level of reading skill well above "no skill at all." The levels build on each other, each incorporating the skills at the preceding levels.

Level 3

- Identify uncomplicated key concepts and simple details.
- Recognize the proper placement of a step in a sequence of events, or the proper time to perform a task.
- Identify the meaning of words that are defined within a passage.
- Identify the meaning of simple words that are not defined within a passage.
- Recognize the application of instructions from a passage to situations that are described in the passage.

Level 4

- Identify details that are more subtle than those in Level 3.
- Recognize the application of more complex instructions, some of which involve several steps, to described situations.
- Recognize cause-effect relationships.

Level 5

- Identify the paraphrased definition of jargon or technical terms that are defined in a passage and recognize the application of jargon or technical terms to stated situations.
- Recognize the definition of acronyms that are defined in a passage.
- Identify the appropriate definition of words with multiple meanings.
- Recognize the application of instructions from a passage to new situations that are similar to the situations described in the reading materials.
- Recognize the applications of more complex instructions to described situations, including conditionals and procedures with multiple steps.

Level 6

- Recognize the application of jargon or technical terms to new situations.
- Recognize the application of complex instructions to new situations.
- Recognize the less-common meaning of a word with multiple meanings from context.
- Generalize from a passage to situations not described in the passage.
- Identify implied details.
- Explain the rationale behind a procedure, policy, or communication.
- Generalize from a passage to a somewhat similar situation.

Level 7

- Recognize the definitions of difficult, uncommon jargon or technical terms from context.
- Generalize from a passage to situations neither described in nor completely similar to those in a passage.

Applied Technology

Applied Technology measures skill in solving problems of a technological nature, involving the basic principles of mechanics, electricity, fluid dynamics, and thermodynamics as they apply to machines and equipment found in the workplace. There are four levels of complexity, 3 through 6, with Level 3 being the least complex and Level 6 the most complex. Although Level 3 is the least complex, it still represents a level of applied technology skill well above "no skill at all." The levels build on each other, each incorporating the skills at the preceding levels.

Level 3

- Apply the elementary physical principles underlying the operation of uncomplicated systems or tools.
- Recognize and identify relevant aspects of simple problems that involve one uncomplicated system or tool.
- Select appropriate methods or materials needed to solve problems.

Level 4

- Recognize, identify, and order relevant aspects of one moderately complex system or more than one uncomplicated system.
- Evaluate alternative solutions to determine the most appropriate one for the situation presented.

Level 5

- Solve problems based on one complex system, or one or more uncomplicated tools or systems.
- Understand and apply moderately difficult principles of mechanics, electricity, thermodynamics, and fluid dynamics, in addition to understanding complex machines and systems.
- Recognize, identify, and order relevant aspects of a problem before reaching an appropriate solution.

Level 6

- Solve problems that do not contain all the information needed to solve them, and/or in which the information provided may be out of logical order.
- Solve problems that contain extraneous information.
- Solve problems involving one or more tools or systems having a wide range of complexity.
- Apply difficult physical principles.
- Understand and correctly interpret the interaction of several complex systems.

Listening

Listening measures skill in listening to and understanding work-related messages; receiving information from customers, coworkers, or suppliers; and then writing down the information to communicate it to someone else. Students demonstrate their ability to distinguish and communicate critical information and noncritical information. **Critical information** consists of those details that the recipient of the message must have in order to understand the message and act upon it (e.g., names, phone numbers, addresses, times). **Noncritical information** can improve a message by providing details that further explain the message or its tone, but the absence of this noncritical information does not interfere with the recipient's ability to understand and accurately act upon the message. Each *Listening* level describes the **content and quality** of messages students write to describe an audio message.

Level 0

- No meaningful information, or totally inaccurate information.

Level 1

- Minimal pertinent information; enough context to provide clues as to gist of situation or source of further information.

Level 2

- Some pertinent information; may have incorrect critical information, but sketch of the situation is correct.

Level 3

- All the critical information that is present is correct; may be missing a few pieces of critical information.

Level 4

- All critical information is given and is correct; may be missing subtle details or tone; may have incorrect noncritical information that does not interfere with central meaning.

Level 5

- All critical information is present and correct; response conveys insight into situation through tone and/or subtle details.

Writing

Writing measures skill at writing work-related messages; receiving information from customers, co-workers, or suppliers; and then writing down the information to communicate it to someone else. Each *Writing* level rates the **writing mechanics** (such as sentence structure and grammar) **and writing style** of messages students write to describe an audio message.

Level 0

- An attempt is made at the message, but the message is completely garbled with no recognizable sentence structure.

Level 1

- Message conveyed inadequately; overall lack of proper sentence structure.

Level 2

- Message conveyed inadequately; weak sentence structure; large number of mechanical errors.

Level 3

- Message conveyed clearly; most sentences complete; some mechanical errors.

Level 4

- Message conveyed clearly; all sentences are complete; may have a few minor mechanical errors; may have a choppy style.

Level 5

- Message conveyed clearly; good sentence structure; no mechanical errors; highly appropriate for business setting and situation; smooth, logical style.

Teamwork

Teamwork measures skill in choosing behaviors and/or actions that simultaneously support team interrelationships and lead toward the accomplishment of work tasks. There are four levels of complexity, 3 through 6, with Level 3 being the least complex and Level 6 the most complex. Although Level 3 is the least complex, it still represents a level of teamwork skill well above "no skill at all." The levels build on each other, each incorporating the skills at the preceding levels.

Level 3

- Identify team goals and ways to work with other team members to accomplish those goals.
- Choose actions that support the ideas of other team members to accomplish team goals.
- Recognize that a team is having problems finishing a task and identify the cause of those problems.

Level 4

- Identify the organization of tasks and the time schedule that would help accomplish team goals efficiently and effectively.
- Select approaches that accept direction from other team members in order to accomplish tasks and to build and keep up good team relations.
- Identify behaviors that show appreciation for the personal and professional qualities of other team members and respect for their diversity.

Level 5

- Identify courses of action that give direction to other team members effectively.
- Choose approaches that encourage and support the efforts of other team members to further team relationships and/or task accomplishment.
- Consider the possible effects of alternative behaviors on both team relationships and team accomplishments and select the one that would best help the team meet its goals.

Level 6

- Identify the focus of team activity and select a new focus if that would help the team meet its goals more effectively.
- Select approaches that show the willingness to give and take direction as needed to further team goals (e.g., recognize the organization of team members' tasks that would best serve the larger goals of the team).
- Choose approaches that encourage a team to act as a unit and reach agreement when discussing specific issues.
- Identify actions that would help manage differences of opinion among team members, moving the team toward its goals while valuing and supporting individual diversity.

Notes

Academic Competencies

Total List of Academic Competencies

Three products of the Ohio Department of Education, Division of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development, describe the academic skills that should be possessed by each student at the end of each grade level:

- *Model Competency-Based Language Arts Program*
- *Model Competency-Based Mathematics Program*
- *Model Competency-Based Science Program*

The following lists were derived from the academic competencies delineated for Grades 9-12 in these documents. Although the competencies are listed separately by grade level in the original documents, the levels were combined—and in some cases refined—for OCAP purposes, any overlap was eliminated, and a numbering system was imposed for ease of reference.

During the course of the OCAP workshops, each of the representatives from business, industry, labor, and community-based organizations was given a copy of these lists of academic competencies and instructed to circle the competencies that an entry-level employee should possess. The results from each panel were tallied to identify those required academic competencies most crucial to entry level in each specific occupational area. The results for this OCAP are presented on pp. 59-63.

Unit: Communications Skills

Subunit: Reading—Structure

Competencies:

RS1 Exhibit knowledge of language structure
RS2 Recognize that there may be more than one interpretation of reading selections
RS3 Recognize various literary devices (e.g., metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, pun, alliteration)
RS4 Recognize and discuss literary elements (e.g., plot, dialogue, theme, setting, characterization)
RS5 Develop and use an increasingly sophisticated vocabulary gained through context
RS6 Apply knowledge of language structure to reading
RS7 Explain why there may be more than one interpretation of reading selections
RS8 Recognize effect of literary devices on meaning
RS9 Analyze author's use of literary elements
RS10 Recognize relationship of structure to meaning
RS11 Describe various interpretations and levels of meaning in reading selections (e.g., symbolism, nuance)
RS12 Characterize author's use of literary devices
RS13 Characterize use of literary techniques (e.g., irony, satire, allegory, onomatopoeia)
RS14 Critique a variety of literature with regard to plot, dialogue, theme, setting, and characterization
RS15 Apply an expanding vocabulary gained through reading
RS16 Explain various interpretations and levels of meaning in reading selections (e.g., symbolism, nuance)
RS17 Analyze use of literary devices (e.g., extended metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, pun, alliteration)
RS18 Understand use of literary techniques (e.g., irony, satire, allegory, onomatopoeia)
RS19 Analyze and synthesize pieces of literature with regard to plot, dialogue, theme, setting, and characterization

Subunit: Reading—Meaning Construction

Competencies:

- RM1 Demonstrate ability to recognize appropriate pre-reading strategies
- RM2 Describe effectiveness of a reading selection
- RM3 Read to clarify personal thinking and knowledge
- RM4 Support interpretation of text by locating and citing specific information
- RM5 Develop personal response to a variety of literary works
- RM6 Recognize diverse literary interpretations
- RM7 Engage in self-selected reading activities
- RM8 Confirm and extend meaning in reading by researching new concepts and facts
- RM9 Self-monitor and apply corrective strategies when communication has been interrupted or lost
- RM10 Use features of literary genres to extend meaning
- RM11 Assess effectiveness of a selection read
- RM12 Use reading as a possible problem-solving strategy to clarify personal thinking and knowledge
- RM13 Use knowledge of semantic elements (e.g., figurative language, denotation, connotation, dialect) to clarify meaning when reading
- RM14 Predict, recognize, interpret, and analyze themes based on familiarity with author's work
- RM15 Compare and contrast literary genres
- RM16 Assess validity and quality of selection read (e.g., predict, summarize, analyze, infer)
- RM17 Clarify meaning when reading, using knowledge of literary devices, stylistic diction, and other semantic elements
- RM18 Compare personal reaction to critical assessment of a literary selection
- RM19 Assess validity of diverse literary interpretations
- RM20 Use reference books to find, evaluate, and synthesize information
- RM21 Identify tone of a literary work (e.g., ironic, serious, conversational, humorous)
- RM22 Critique validity of diverse literary interpretations
- RM23 Integrate personal reaction to and critical assessment of a literary selection

Subunit: Reading—Application

Competencies:

- RA1 Select and read material for personal enjoyment and information
- RA2 Read a variety of complete, unabridged works (e.g., self-selected or assigned stories, essays, nonfiction, plays, novels, poetry)
- RA3 Employ various reading strategies (e.g., scanning, skimming, reviewing, questioning, testing, retaining) according to purpose
- RA4 Participate in selection of books, materials, and topics for literature study groups
- RA5 Develop and apply knowledge of the interrelationship of concepts (e.g., construction of webs, graphs, timelines)
- RA6 Read selections from a variety of styles and formats, recognizing that style and format influence meaning
- RA7 Extend value of reading, writing, speaking, viewing, and listening by pursuing, through reading, new concepts and interests developed as a result of these activities
- RA8 Read extensively from the works of a particular author, and explain elements of author's style

Subunit: Reading—Multidisciplinary

Competencies:

- RM1 Connect themes and ideas across disciplines through literature
- RM2 Read to facilitate learning across curriculum
- RM3 Read to develop awareness of human rights and freedom
- RM4 Participate actively in a community of learners

RM5 Recognize and explain interaction between literature and various cultural domains (e.g., social, technological, political, economic)
RM6 Explore and analyze a variety of cultural elements, attitudes, beliefs, and value structures by reading and experiencing our diverse literary tradition, including works by men and women of many racial, ethnic, and cultural groups
RM7 Value thinking and language of others
RM8 Relate literature to historical period about which or in which it was written
RM9 Read to facilitate content learning

Subunit: Writing—Structure

Competencies:

WS1 Develop and expand a repertoire of organizational strategies (e.g., narration, comparison/contrast, and description) through practice and discussion
WS2 Clarify word choice according to audience, topic, and purpose
WS3 Locate and correct errors in usage, spelling, and mechanics (e.g., subject-verb agreement, parallel construction, pronoun reference, punctuation, capitalization, sentence structure) using a variety of resources
WS4 Recognize information gained from primary and secondary sources
WS5 Develop writing that contains ordered, related, well-developed paragraphs with sentences of varied lengths and patterns
WS6 Use information from a variety of sources to develop an integrated piece of writing
WS7 Evaluate and revise writing to focus on such things as audience, tone, and purpose
WS8 Recognize differences between documentation and reference list styles
WS9 Develop extended pieces of writing that contain ordered, related, well-developed paragraphs with sentences of varied lengths and patterns
WS10 Select from a repertoire of organization strategies a pattern appropriate to a topic (e.g., narration, example, detail, comparison/contrast, classification)
WS11 Synthesize information from a variety of sources to construct meaning
WS12 Refine word choice and tone according to audience, situation, and purpose
WS13 Appropriately cite information gained from primary and secondary sources
WS14 Use style manuals or software to prepare documentation and reference lists
WS15 Develop effectively organized pieces of expository writing containing strong voice, clear thesis, and well-developed ideas
WS16 Identify organization patterns appropriate to writing topic
WS17 Respond to others' suggested revisions to a writing piece

Subunit: Writing—Meaning Construction

Competencies:

WM1 Demonstrate knowledge of the recursive nature of the writing process by applying it appropriately to various topics, situations, and audiences (e.g., making connections between prior knowledge and new information, consulting other sources)
WM2 Develop criteria for writing evaluation using scoring guides (e.g., rubric/holistic scale, primary trait scoring) and peer/teacher assistance to clarify meaning
WM3 Respond to others' suggested revisions to a piece of writing (e.g., self-question, re-read, revise)
WM4 Use word processing, graphics, and publishing as aids for constructing meaning in writing
WM5 Engage in self-initiated writing activities
WM6 Incorporate personal criteria with generally accepted standards for writing evaluation
WM7 Evaluate, analyze, and synthesize information for writing
WM8 Evaluate own writing using personal and established scoring criteria
WM9 Assess personal/peer revisions to a writing piece
WM10 Recognize and refine personal writing styles

Subunit: Writing—Application

Competencies:

- WA1 Apply appropriate writing techniques (e.g., prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, presenting) suitable for varied writing tasks
- WA2 Use sentence-combining techniques to improve syntactic fluency and maturity
- WA3 Write in response to prompted and self-selected topics in practical, persuasive, descriptive, narrative, and expository domains
- WA4 Develop personal voice in writing
- WA5 Consider audience and purpose for writing
- WA6 Develop criteria for selection and potential development of topic
- WA7 Write in a journal or learning log to clarify personal thinking and knowledge
- WA8 Apply an expanding vocabulary gained through writing
- WA9 Make judicious use of reference sources (e.g., dictionary, thesaurus, online database, encyclopedia)
- WA10 Demonstrate an appreciation for aesthetically pleasing language through word choice and style
- WA11 Apply revising and editing strategies needed for writing task
- WA12 Vary sentence lengths and patterns
- WA13 Refine personal voice in writing
- WA14 Vary styles and formats for intended purpose and audience
- WA15 Apply criteria for selection and development of topic
- WA16 Participate in peer review of writing in progress
- WA17 Use transitions between sentences, ideas, and paragraphs in writing
- WA18 Revise and edit papers extensively in preparation for presentation/publication
- WA19 Develop a variety of genres (e.g, fantasy, science fiction, short stories, poetry)
- WA20 Focus writing and tone on such elements as audience, situation, and purpose
- WA21 Develop topic fully and appropriately
- WA22 Use writing process to clarify personal thinking and knowledge
- WA23 Apply appropriate recursive writing process as suggested by writing task and writer's process
- WA24 Develop an extended piece of writing (e.g., story, narrative poem, autobiography, novel, research paper)
- WA25 Revise writing and tone to assure focus on such elements as audience, situation, and purpose
- WA26 Use writing process to write reflectively

Subunit: Writing—Multidisciplinary

Competencies:

- WM1 Use writing process for learning across curriculum
- WM2 Use writing process to demonstrate knowledge of need for human rights and freedom
- WM3 Value and apply collaborative skills in the writing process
- WM4 Write in response to reading, speaking, viewing, and listening
- WM5 Use multidisciplinary resources in writing projects
- WM6 Use writing process to facilitate learning across curriculum
- WM7 Recognize value of and engage in collaboration in the writing process
- WM8 Use communication processes to develop a published writing piece in collaboration with others
- WM9 Record experiences and observations related to content learning
- WM10 Apply collaborative skills in the writing process
- WM11 Write collaboratively with peers
- WM12 Use cross-disciplinary resources in writing projects

Subunit: Listening/Visual Literacy—Structure

Competencies:

- LS1 Listen to and view a wide variety of genres (e.g, mystery, drama, poetry)
- LS2 Become aware of an author's style through listening to and viewing a variety of works

LS3 Recognize correct and appropriate grammar, diction, and syntax
LS4 Expand vocabulary through listening to and viewing varied media (e.g., recordings, films, music, news broadcasts)
LS5 Recognize beauty of language
LS6 Enhance recognition of an author's style through listening to and viewing a variety of works
LS7 Recognize use and misuse of language in media
LS8 Refine knowledge of style through listening to and viewing multiple works by the same author
LS9 Expand and refine grammar, diction, and syntax through listening
LS10 Compare authors' styles through viewing and listening to their works
LS11 Expand knowledge of complex grammar, diction, and syntax issues

Subunit: Listening/Visual Literacy—Meaning Construction

Competencies:

LM1 Develop critical thinking skills necessary to evaluate media and assess oral presentations
LM2 Compare new oral texts to past experiences and knowledge in order to enhance comprehension
LM3 Recognize how rhythmic patterns, silence, and cadences enhance quality of speech and literature
LM4 Focus listening and viewing on themes and/or plots
LM5 Gather information from listening and viewing experiences to enhance research
LM6 Use critical thinking skills to evaluate media and oral presentations
LM7 Use prior knowledge and experiences to facilitate comprehension of new oral texts
LM8 Identify rhythmic and time patterns in speech and literature
LM9 Identify and analyze themes and/or plots when listening and viewing
LM10 Use information gathered from listening and viewing experiences to expand research
LM11 Enhance use of critical thinking skills to evaluate media and oral presentations
LM12 Consider prior knowledge and experiences when attempting to understand the meaning of new texts
LM13 Appreciate rhythmic and time patterns of speech and literature
LM14 Select viewing and listening materials to support written text
LM15 Evaluate media and oral presentations analytically and critically
LM16 Organize prior knowledge and experiences to comprehend new texts
LM17 Organize and use viewing and listening materials to support written text

Subunit: Listening/Visual Literacy—Application

Competencies:

LA1 Listen attentively during oral reading
LA2 Use media as stimuli for learning and thinking
LA3 Develop knowledge of structure through art, music, and literature
LA4 Use electronic media to enhance and highlight language learning
LA5 Listen and view for entertainment and enjoyment
LA6 Use technology and other media (e.g., videos, posters, maps, graphs, t-shirts) as means of expressing ideas

Subunit: Listening/Visual Literacy—Multidisciplinary

Competencies:

LM1 Facilitate learning across curriculum through critical listening and viewing
LM2 Engage in individual, small-group, and whole-group listening and viewing activities
LM3 Develop language arts (e.g., viewing, listening) projects collaboratively
LM4 Investigate language and cultural differences through listening and viewing activities
LM5 Participate in a community of learners through productive listening

Subunit: Oral Communication—Structure

Competencies:

- OS1 Refine oral communication skills (e.g., voice modulation, eye contact, body language)
- OS2 Demonstrate knowledge of grammar, usage, and syntax when presenting
- OS3 Select topics and vocabulary suitable to audience
- OS4 Organize notes and ideas for speaking (e.g., cause-effect, chronological, exemplification)
- OS5 Use language imaginatively (e.g., word games, puns, limericks)
- OS6 Modulate voice to enhance meaning when interpreting literature orally
- OS7 Organize notes and ideas for formal, semiformal, and informal presentations of information
- OS8 Refine speaking techniques for formal, semiformal, and informal settings
- OS9 Develop repertoire of organizational strategies for presenting information orally
- OS10 Expand vocabulary to fit topic
- OS11 Select topics suitable to audience, situation, and purpose
- OS12 Select appropriate strategies when organizing notes and ideas for speaking

Subunit: Oral Communications—Meaning Construction

Competencies:

- OM1 Make connections between prior knowledge and new information for oral presentations
- OM2 Participate in informal speaking activities (e.g., offering opinions, supporting statements, questions, clarification, entertainment)
- OM3 Use interviewing techniques to gather information
- OM4 Communicate orally to entertain and to inform
- OM5 Participate in group communication activities (e.g., debates, panel discussions, negotiations, book-sharing, roundtables, cooperative/collaborative groups)
- OM6 Take and organize notes when preparing speech/presentation
- OM7 Interpret texts orally to illustrate meaning
- OM8 Respond to needs of various audiences
- OM9 Gather and assess information for speaking
- OM10 Communicate orally to inform and persuade
- OM11 Prepare and deliver formal speech/presentation
- OM12 Participate in a variety of oral interpretations
- OM13 Assess needs of audience, and adjust language and presentation according to their knowledge
- OM14 Analyze and synthesize information for speaking
- OM15 Describe effectiveness of a literary selection
- OM16 Describe topic or idea in order to clarify personal/audience thinking
- OM17 Analyze and synthesize information gathered from a variety of sources (e.g., interviews, hypermedia, reference works) for speaking
- OM18 Describe validity and/or quality of a literary selection and justify selection
- OM19 Interpret orally a variety of literature
- OM20 Describe topic or idea to clarify meaning for others

Subunit: Oral Communication—Application

Competencies:

- OA1 Become proficient at using interviewing techniques
- OA2 Give an oral interpretation for a specific audience
- OA3 Develop and apply oral communication skills for cooperative/collaborative learning
- OA4 Use oral communication for a variety of purposes and audiences (e.g., negotiations, book reviews, rationales)
- OA5 Develop and apply decision-making strategies
- OA6 Practice interviewing techniques
- OA7 Apply interviewing techniques to purposeful interviews
- OA8 Focus oral interpretation on a specific audience

Subunit: Oral Communications—Multidisciplinary

Competencies:

- OM1 Value thinking and language of others
- OM2 Develop oral projects collaboratively
- OM3 Be involved in individual, small-group, and whole-group language activities
- OM4 Participate actively in a community of learners
- OM5 Investigate language and cultural differences through oral language activities

Unit: Mathematics Skills

Subunit: Numbers and Number Relations

Competencies:

- NR1 Compare, order, and determine equivalence of real numbers
- NR2 Estimate answers, compute, and solve problems involving real numbers
- NR3 Compare and contrast real number system, rational number system, and whole number system
- NR4 Extend knowledge to complex number system, and develop facility with its operation

Subunit: Measurement

Competencies:

- M1 Estimate and use measurements
- M2 Understand the need for measurement and the probability that any measurement is accurate to some designated specification
- M3 Understand and apply measurements related to power and work
- M4 Understand and apply measurement concepts of distance-rate-time problems and acceleration problems with real-world experiments
- M5 Use real experiments to investigate elasticity, heat, sound, electricity, magnetism, light, acceleration, velocity, energy, and gravity
- M6 Use real-world problem situations involving mass and weight
- M7 Use real-world problem situations involving simple harmonic motion
- M8 Establish ratios with and without common units
- M9 Construct and interpret maps, tables, charts, and graphs as they relate to real-world mathematics
- M10 Understand and solve rate-change problems
- M11 Understand and solve right triangle relationships as they relate to measurement—specifically those that deal with the Pythagorean theorem
- M12 Graph and interpret ordered pairs
- M13 Compute total sales from a variety of items
- M14 Comprehend and compute rates of growth or decay
- M15 Comprehend, compute, and interpret real problems involving annuities
- M16 Develop an ability to identify real problems and provide possible solutions
- M17 Express and apply different types of measurement scales
- M18 Determine area and volume

NOTE: The math subunit on problem solving was not included on this list since it should be a continuing thread throughout all instruction rather than a separate set of competencies.

Subunit: Estimation and Mental Computation

Competencies:

- E1 Use estimation to eliminate choices in multiple-choice tests
- E2 Use estimation to determine reasonableness of problem situations in a wide variety of applications
- E3 Estimate shape of graphs of various functions and algebraic expressions
- E4 Use mental computation when computer and calculator are inappropriate

Subunit: Data Analysis and Probability

Competencies:

- D1 Organize data into tables, charts, and graphs
- D2 Understand and apply measures of central tendency, variability, and correlation
- D3 Use curve fitting to predict from data
- D4 Use experimental or theoretical probability, as appropriate, to represent and solve problems involving uncertainty
- D5 Use computer simulations and random number generators to estimate probabilities
- D6 Test hypotheses using appropriate statistics
- D7 Read, interpret, and use tables, charts, and graphs to identify patterns, note trends, draw conclusions, and make predictions
- D8 Identify probabilities of events involving unbiased objects
- D9 Use sampling and recognize its role in statistical claims
- D10 Design a statistical experiment to study problem, conduct experiment, and interpret and communicate outcomes
- D11 Describe normal curve in general terms, and use its properties
- D12 Create and interpret discrete probability distributions
- D13 Understand concept of random variable
- D14 Apply concept of random variable to generate and interpret probability distributions, including binomial, uniform, normal, and chi square

Subunit: Algebra

Competencies:

- A1 Describe problem situations by using and relating numerical, symbolic, and graphical representations
- A2 Use language and notation of functions in symbolic and graphing settings
- A3 Recognize, relate, and use the equivalent ideas of zeros of a function, roots of an equation, and solution of an equation in terms of graphical and symbolic representations
- A4 Describe and use logic of equivalence in working with equations, inequalities, and functions
- A5 Develop graphical techniques of solution for problem situations involving functions
- A6 Explore and describe characterizing features of functions
- A7 Make arguments and proofs in algebraic settings
- A8 Factor difference of two squares
- A9 Determine slope, midpoint, and distance
- A10 Explore and combine rational functions
- A11 Explore factoring techniques
- A12 Solve quadratic equations by factoring and formula
- A13 Set up and solve linear equations
- A14 Solve systems of linear equations with two variables
- A15 Describe geometric situations and phenomena using variables, equations, and functions
- A16 Describe measures of central tendency, mean, median, mode, and variance algebraically and graphically
- A17 Represent inequalities on the number line and in the coordinate plane
- A18 Use coordinate arguments in making geometric proofs

A19 Symbolize transformations of figures and graphs
A20 Explore geometric basis for functions of trigonometry
A21 Graph linear functions
A22 Develop and use vectors to represent direction and magnitude, including operations
A23 Use polar and parametric equations to describe, graph, and solve problem situations
A24 Represent sequences and series as functions both algebraically and graphically
A25 Explore recursive functions and procedures using spreadsheets, other computer utilities, and notions appropriate to these problem situations
A26 Describe and solve algebraic situations with matrices
A27 Describe and use inverse relationship between functions, including exponential and logarithmic
A28 Analyze and describe errors (and their sources) that can be made when using computers and calculators to solve problems
A29 Decide whether problem situation is best solved using computer, calculator, paper and pencil, or mental arithmetic/estimation techniques
A30 Explore relationships between complex numbers and vectors
A31 Make arguments concerning limits, convergence and divergence in contexts involving sequences, series, and other types of functions
A32 Represent transformations in the plane with matrices
A33 Contrast and compare algebras of rational, real, and complex numbers with characteristics of a matrix algebra system
A34 Construct polynomial approximations of a function over specified intervals of convergence
A35 Examine complex numbers as zeros of functions
A36 Translate verbal statements into symbolic language
A37 Simplify algebraic expressions
A38 Use laws and exponents (including scientific notation)
A39 Expand and extend idea of vectors and linear algebra to higher dimensional situations
A40 Use the idea of independent basis elements for a vector space and associated fundamental concepts of finite dimensional linear algebra
A41 Develop and communicate arguments about limit situations
A42 Use matrices to describe and apply transformations
A43 Develop and use polar and parametric equations to represent problem situations
A44 Explore proofs by mathematical induction

Subunit: Geometry

Competencies:

G1 Create and interpret drawings of three-dimensional objects
G2 Represent problem situations with geometric models and apply properties of figures
G3 Apply Pythagorean theorem
G4 Demonstrate knowledge of angles and parallel and perpendicular lines
G5 Explore inductive and deductive reasoning through applications to various subject areas
G6 Translate between synthetic and coordinate representations
G7 Identify congruent and similar figures using transformation with computer programs
G8 Deduce properties of figures using transformations and coordinates
G9 Use deductive reasoning
G10 Explore compass and straightedge constructions in context of geometric theorems
G11 Demonstrate knowledge of and ability to use proof
G12 Use variety of proof techniques (e.g., synthetic, transformational, and coordinate)
G13 Use variety of proof formats, including T-proof (i.e., two-column) and paragraph proof
G14 Explore different proof strategies
G15 Investigate different proofs of theorems
G16 Develop knowledge of an axiomatic system
G17 Apply transformations and coordinates in problem solving
G18 Represent problem situations with geometric models, and apply properties of figures

G19 Deduce properties of figures using vectors
G20 Analyze properties of Euclidean transformations, and relate translations to vectors
G21 Apply vectors in problem solving
G22 Develop further knowledge of axiomatic systems by investigating and comparing various geometries

Subunit: Patterns, Relations, and Functions

Competencies:

P1 Model real-world phenomena with polynomial and exponential functions
P2 Explore relationship between zeros and intercepts of functions
P3 Translate among tables, algebraic expressions, and graphs of functions
P4 Use graphing calculator or computer to generate graph of a function
P5 Explore relationship between a linear function and its inverse
P6 Describe and use characteristics of polynomial functions in problem-solving situations
P7 Explore conic sections, and graph using graphing calculator or computer
P8 Apply trigonometric functions to problem situations involving triangles
P9 Discover general relationships between algebraic description of conic, kind of conic, and special properties of that conic
P10 Explore periodic real-world phenomena using sine and cosine functions
P11 Analyze effects of parameter changes on graphs
P12 Use graphing calculator or computer to graph functions
P13 Develop a knowledge of rational and transcendental functions
P14 Understand connections between trigonometric and circular functions
P15 Use circular functions to model periodic real-world functions
P16 Solve trigonometric equations, and verify trigonometric identities
P17 Understand connections between trigonometric functions and polar coordinates, exponential functions , logarithmic functions, complex numbers, and series
P18 Model real-world phenomena with a variety of functions
P19 Graph using polar coordinates
P20 Explore graphs in three dimensions
P21 Explore functions of several variables
P22 Explore recursive functions using spreadsheets and/or programming languages

Unit: Science Skills

Subunit: Scientific Inquiry

Competencies:

Q1 Check the appropriateness and accuracy of measures and computations using various strategies (e.g., estimations, unit analysis, determination of significant figures)
Q2 Use ratios, proportions, and probabilities in appropriate problem situations
Q3 Translate information from and represent information in various forms with equal ease (e.g., tables, charts, graphs, diagrams, geometric figures)
Q4 Use existing algebraic formulas and create new ones in appropriate problem-solving situations
Q5 Estimate and justify probabilities of outcomes of familiar situations based on experimentation and other strategies
Q6 Invent apparatus and mechanical tools needed to perform unique tasks in various situations
Q7 Identify, compare, and contrast different modes of inquiry, habits of mind, and attitudes and dispositions
Q8 Design investigations that are safe and ethical (i.e., obtain consent and inform others of potential outcomes, risks, and benefits; and show evidence of concern for the health and safety of humans and non-human species)

Q9 Make and read scale drawings, maps, models, and other representations to aid planning and understanding
Q10 Seek elaboration and justification of data and ideas, and reflect on alternative interpretations of the information
Q11 Use appropriate units for counts and measures
Q12 Create and use databases (electronic and other) to collect, organize, and verify data and observations
Q13 Design and conduct investigations with multiple variables
Q14 Communicate the results of investigations clearly in a variety of situations
Q15 Examine relationships in nature, offer alternative explanations for the observations, and collect evidence that can be used to help judge among explanations
Q16 Trace the development (e.g., history, controversy, and ramifications) of various theories, focusing on supporting evidence and modification with new evidence
Q17 Select, invent, and use tools, including analog and digital instruments, to make and record direct measurements
Q18 Observe and document events and characteristics of complex systems
Q19 Explain the influence of perspective (e.g., spatial, temporal, and social) on observation and subsequent interpretations
Q20 Create multiple representations of the same data using a variety of symbols, descriptive languages, mathematical concepts, and graphic techniques
Q21 Generate testable hypotheses for observations of complex systems and interactions
Q22 Document potentially hazardous conditions and associated risks in selected homes and public areas
Q23 Participate in public debates, relying on documented and verified data to construct and represent a position on scientific issues
Q24 Construct and test models of physical, biological, social, and geological systems
Q25 Read, verify, debate, and, where necessary, refute research published in popular or technical journals of science (e.g., *Discover, Omni, Popular Mechanics*)
Q26 Explore discrepant events and develop and test explanations of what was observed
Q27 Conduct theory-based research using surveys, observational instruments, and other methods
Q28 Modify personal opinions, interpretations, explanations, and conclusions based on new information
Q29 Analyze error and develop explanations in various domains
Q30 Formulate taxonomic schemes based upon multivariate models that help to explain similarities and differences in form, distribution, behavior, survival, and origin of objects and organisms
Q31 Demonstrate various logical connections between related concepts (e.g., entropy, conservation of energy)
Q32 Account for discrepancies between theories and observations
Q33 Analyze the changes within a system when inputs, outputs, and interactions are altered
Q34 Create, standardize, and document procedures
Q35 Determine the sources of significant disparities between the predicted and recorded results, and change research procedures to minimize disparities
Q36 Research, locate, and propose applications for abstract patterns (e.g., fractals, Fibonacci sequences, string theory, orbitals)
Q37 Recognize and utilize classification systems for particles, elements, compounds, phenomena, organisms, and others for exploring and predicting properties and behaviors
Q38 Suggest and defend alternative experimental designs and data explanations (e.g., sampling, controls, safeguards)
Q39 Recognize and communicate differences between questions that can be investigated in a scientific way and those that rely on other ways of knowing
Q40 Draw conclusions based on the relationships among data analysis, experimental design, and possible models and theories
Q41 Suggest new questions as a result of reflection on and discussions about own scientific investigations
Q42 Investigate, assess, and comment on strengths and weakness of the descriptive and predictive powers of science
Q43 Create new information from representations of data in a variety of forms (e.g., symbols, descriptive languages, graphic formats) utilizing a variety of techniques (e.g., interpolations, extrapolations, linear regressions, central tendencies, correlations)

Subunit: Scientific Knowledge

Competencies:

- K1 Investigate various types of dynamic equilibrium (e.g., biological, geological, mechanical, chemical)
- K2 Investigate the relationship between the rates of energy exchange and the relative energy level of components within systems (e.g., trophic levels of ecosystems, osmosis, rate of heating and cooling, storms)
- K3 Investigate patterns in the natural world (e.g., heredity, crystalline structures, population and resource distributions, diffraction, dispersion, polarization)
- K4 Investigate models and theories that help to explain the interactions of components in systems (e.g., conservation of mass, energy, and momentum; foodwebs; natural selection; entropy; plate tectonics; chaos; relativity; social-psychology)
- K5 Investigate degrees of kinship among organisms and groups of organisms
- K6 Investigate the limits of the definition of life, and investigate organisms and physical systems that exist at or near these limits (e.g. viruses, quarks, black holes)
- K7 Investigate estimates and measurements of a wide range of distances and rates of change
- K8 Investigate the historical development of theories of change over time (e.g., natural selection, continental drift, the big bang, geologic change)
- K9 Investigate physical and chemical changes in living and nonliving systems (e.g., photosynthesis, weathering processes, glaciation, thermal effects of materials, energy cells)
- K10 Investigate simulations of nuclear change (e.g., radioactivity, half life, carbon dating)
- K11 Investigate conservation principles associated with physical, chemical, and nuclear changes
- K12 Formulate descriptions of the impacts of various forms of mechanical and electromagnetic waves on various organisms and objects
- K13 Formulate models and hypotheses for patterns in the natural world (e.g., earth structures, transportation systems, migrations, communications, constellations)
- K14 Formulate explanations for the influences of objects and organisms on each other over time
- K15 Formulate and interpret explanations for change phenomena (e.g., mass extinctions, stellar evolution, punctuated equilibrium, molecular synthesis)
- K16 Formulate and interpret explanations for the magnitudes of diversity at different periods of geologic time (e.g., mutation, global cataclysms, continental drift, competition, mass extinctions)
- K17 Formulate interpretations of the structure, function, and diversity in a variety of organisms and physical systems (e.g., DNA and RNA variants, nucleons, interaction particles)
- K18 Formulate understandings of geologic time (e.g., millennia, periods, epochs)
- K19 Formulate an understanding of the historical development of the model of the universe (e.g., Aristotle, Ptolemy, Copernicus, Brahe, Kepler, Galileo, Newton, Einstein)
- K20 Formulate explanations and representations of the production, transmission, and conservation of energy in biological and physical systems (e.g., weather, volcanism, earthquakes, electricity, magnetism, cellular respiration)
- K21 Formulate models and hypotheses about patterns in the natural world (e.g., social behavior, molecular structure, energy transformation, entropy, randomness, aging, chaos, hormonal cycles)
- K22 Formulate interpretations of the relationship between energy exchange and the interfaces between components within systems
- K23a Formulate estimations for the range of energies within and between various phenomena (e.g., thermal, electromagnetic, thermonuclear, chemical, electrical)
- K23b Formulate explanations for the historical development of descriptions of motions interactions and transformations of matter and energy (e.g., classical Newtonian mechanics, special and general relativity, chaos)
- K24 Formulate models that can be used to describe fundamental molecular interactions in living and non-living systems (e.g., cell membranes, semiconductors).
- K25 Formulate an understanding of the degree of relationship among organisms and objects based on molecular structure (e.g., proteins, nucleic acids)
- K26 Formulate hypotheses and models that may account for observable events (e.g., electricity and magnetism, gravitation, atoms, bonding, chemical reactions, quantum effects, energy flow on biological systems, predator-prey relationships)

K27 Formulate models and hypotheses about change over time (e.g., natural selection, speciation, punctuated equilibrium, phyleytic gradualism, stellar evolution, plate tectonics, radioactive decay, quantum mechanical theory)

K28 Formulate lists of limitations, and propose refinements of standard classification systems (e.g., periodic table, IUPAC, Linnean, standard model)

K29 Formulate specific cases of limitations and possible exceptions of theories and principles regarding the interactions of moving objects and organisms (e.g., fluid flow in vessels, motion near the speed of light, Heisenberg uncertainty principle, meteorological prediction, local variation and diversity, earthquake prediction, energy transport in cellular respiration)

K30 Formulate plans and contingencies that can be used to accommodate for changes to and stresses on systems (e.g., wildlife and habitat management, corrosion prevention, noise abatement, structure design)

K31 Formulate models of molecular, atomic, ionic, and subatomic structures and the physical and biological implications of these structures (e.g., genes, nucleons, quarks)

K32 Formulate estimates for a wide range of measurements and scales (e.g., angstroms to light years)

K33 Formulate and interpret representations of time from origin to present accounting for phenomena of scale (e.g., smoothness, punctuations, chaos)

K34 Formulate interpretations of the historical development of various theories of possible causes of diversity among physical and biological phenomena (e.g., the works of Aristotle, Mendel, Darwin, McClintock)

K35 Formulate models and hypotheses that can be used to explain the interactions of components within technological and ecological systems

Subunit: Conditions for Learning Science

Competencies:

C1 Participate actively in dialogue about and resolution of community issues

C2 Assess information from various countries in the original language or translated form to ascertain the perspectives of many cultures

C3 Analyze the scientific ideas presented in science fiction stories and films

C4 Perform and repeat investigations to verify data, determine regularity, and reduce the impact of experimental error

C5 Present the results of investigations in a variety of forums

C6 Contribute to the decisions regarding topics for investigation

C7 Use various creative means to communicate interpretations of scientific ideas, concepts, phenomena, and events

C8 Consider the scientific thinking and language of others

C9 Individually and collaboratively produce clearly written representations of investigative results

C10 Fulfill responsibilities as part of a research group

C11 Select and utilize resources by various criteria (e.g., efficiency, effectiveness, health, safety) that are appropriate to the investigations being conducted by groups

C12 Present persuasive argument based on the scientific aspects of controversial issues

C13 Collect, store, retrieve, and manipulate information with available technologies that may range from hand processes up through computer applications

C14 Investigate social issues with a scientific perspective (e.g., human rights, wellness, economics, futurism, environmental ethics)

C15 Keep journals of observations and inferences made over an extended period of time, and reflect upon the impact of these recorded ideas on own thinking and actions

C16 Examine the intellect, perspectives, and ethics of notable scientists

C17 Collect and analyze observations made over extended periods of time and compare these to scientific theories

C18 Create presentations of scientific understandings using diverse modes of expressions

C19 Conduct formal scientific debates in the classroom

C20 Wonder about the likelihood of events that may occur by chance or coincidence
C21 Plan and conduct field trips and experiences for small and large groups
C22 Analyze the historical context that leads to and has led to scientific theories
C23 Seek information on topics of personal scientific interest from a variety of sources
C24 Conduct learner-developed investigations independently and collaboratively over periods of weeks and months
C25 Listen attentively and critically to presentations of scientific information made by others
C26 Conduct analyses of propaganda related to scientific issues
C27 Perform investigations that require observations over varying periods of time
C28 Experience scientific concepts as interpreted by other cultures through multimedia and local and global specialists
C29 Access appropriate technology to perform complicated, time-consuming tasks
C30 Relate historical accounts of science to the cultural context in which they were written
C31 Work as a contributing member of a collaborative research group
C32 Examine the influences of social and political structures and realities that contribute to inquiry about scientific issues
C33 Use technology (e.g., desktop publishing, teleconferencing, networking) to communicate scientific ideas
C34 Explore and analyze a variety of perspectives on science (e.g., works by men and women of many racial, ethnic, and cultural groups)
C35 Lead groups of learners of various ages in designing, planning, and conducting science activities
C36 Respect the scientific thinking of others and self
C37 Recognize and contrast different epistemologies
C38 Develop possible courses of action in response to scientific issues of local and global concern
C39 Determine the validity of research conclusions in relation to the design, performance, and results
C40 Develop multimedia presentations of group and individual research projects and investigations appropriate for a variety of audiences and forums
C41 Produce interesting and scientifically correct stories and present them using various modes of expression
C42 Reflect on the ideas and content found in own journal records
C43 Examine ambiguous results and formulate explanations
C44 Recognize and synthesize the contributions to scientific thought of individuals from many cultures
C45 Construct models and simulations of the component structures and functions of living and nonliving entities
C46 Lead multi-age groups in the examination of and planned resolution for scientific issues
C47 Recognize and choose members of research teams based upon the merit of their ideas and skills
C48 Construct a portfolio of products, documentation, and self-evaluations of own abilities, skills, and experiences
C49 Synthesize scientific information from a variety of sources
C50 Evaluate and prioritize scientific issues based upon risk-benefit analyses
C51 Refine scientific skills from a variety of experiences

Subunit: Applications for Science Learning

Competencies:

A1 Answer student-determined questions by designing databases and drawing inferences from the analyses of the information in these databases
A2 Make personal behavior decisions by interpreting information that has a scientific basis
A3 Propose courses of action that will validate and demonstrate personal understandings of scientific principles
A4 Guide other learners in their understanding of the interactions of technologies and society at various periods in time
A5 Promote and carry out practices that contribute to a sustainable environment

A6 Study and propose improvements in public services and systems in own community
A7 Choose consumer materials utilizing personal and environmental risk and benefit information
A8 Make inferences and draw conclusions using databases, spreadsheets, and other technologies
A9 Do simple troubleshooting on common electrical and mechanical systems, identifying and eliminating possible causes of malfunctions
A10 Construct devices that perform simple, repetitive actions
A11 Investigate the functionality of various geometric shapes in the natural world and the designed world (e.g., translations from spherical to plane representations cause distortions; triangular shapes contribute to rigidity and stability in structures; round shapes minimize boundary for a given capacity)
A12 Make decisions regarding personal and public health
A13 Evaluate the social and ecological risks and benefits resulting from the use of various consumer products
A14 Analyze the contributions of advances in technology through history to own everyday life
A15 Identify and reduce risks and threats to a sustainable environment
A16 Extend the limits of human capabilities using technological enhancements
A17 Use and recognize various propaganda techniques
A18 Solve unique problems using the results of systematic analyses
A19 Choose everyday consumer products that utilize recent innovation and pass appropriate performance criteria
A20 Refine personal career interests through investigations of the diversity of manufacturing, research, service, and invention processes
A21 Predict and investigate the working of toys and tools while controlling and manipulating variables (e.g., friction, gravity, forces)
A22 Write, follow, modify, and extend instructions (e.g., equations, algorithms, formulas, flow diagrams, illustrations)
A23 Create products, make inferences, and draw conclusions using databases, spreadsheets, and other technologies
A24 Predict various scenarios and propose solutions to community issues using scientific information (e.g., actuarial tables, census data, topographic maps, incidence data, climatic data)
A25 Use scientific evidence to consider options and formulate positions about the health and safety of others and self
A26 Search for, use, create, and store objects and information using various strategies and methods of organization and access
A27 Research and write environmental impact statements of own design
A28 Compare school-based science perspectives with those gained through cutting-edge technological applications
A29 Design management plans for natural and human-altered environments (e.g., woodlots, patios, lots, lawns, farmlands, forests)
A30 Refine personal career interests
A31 Promote public awareness of the interaction of technology with social issues
A32 Advocate and propose courses of action for local and global scientific issues using global networks
A33 Use appropriate technologies to prepare and present the findings of investigations incorporating tables, graphs, diagrams, and text
A34 Make informed consumer choices by evaluating and prioritizing information, evidence, and strategies
A35 Develop an informed point of view that allows for validation or refutation of the scientific statements and claims of advocates before pursuing courses of action (e.g., contributing support, signing petitions, casting votes)
A36 Differentiate between observations and inferences in the exploration of evidence related to personal, scientific, and community issues
A37 Develop and write environmental impact, and safety and hygiene management plans
A38 Use technology to collect, analyze, and communicate information (e.g., electronic networks, desktop publishing, remote sensing, graphing calculators, satellite telemetry, and others)
A39 Design, construct, and market inventions

Academic Competencies: Dental Assistant

The Dental Assistant OCAP panel of expert workers (see member list on the inside back cover) identified the following academic competencies (from the total list, pp. 44-58) as most crucial to the entry-level success of an employee in the area of dental assisting. It is recommended that these competencies be taught in an applied manner for students enrolled in dental assistant programs.

Unit: Communications Skills

Subunit: Reading—Structure

Competencies:

RS1	Exhibit knowledge of language structure
RS2	Recognize that there may be more than one interpretation of reading selections
RS5	Develop and use an increasingly sophisticated vocabulary gained through context
RS6	Apply knowledge of language structure to reading
RS7	Explain why there may be more than one interpretation of reading selections
RS15	Apply an expanding vocabulary gained through reading

Subunit: Reading—Meaning Construction

Competencies:

RM3	Read to clarify personal thinking and knowledge
RM4	Support interpretation of text by locating and citing specific information
RM7	Engage in self-selected reading activities
RM9	Self-monitor and apply corrective strategies when communication has been interrupted or lost
RM12	Use reading as a possible problem-solving strategy to clarify personal thinking and knowledge
RM17	Clarify meaning when reading, using knowledge of literary devices, stylistic diction, and other semantic elements
RM20	Use reference books to find, evaluate, and synthesize information

Subunit: Reading—Application

Competencies:

RA1	Select and read material for personal enjoyment and information
RA7	Extend value of reading, writing, speaking, viewing, and listening by pursuing, through reading, new concepts and interests developed as a result of these activities

Subunit: Reading—Multidisciplinary

Competencies:

RM2	Read to facilitate learning across curriculum
RM7	Value thinking and language of others

Subunit: Writing—Structure

Competencies:

WS2	Clarify word choice according to audience, topic, and purpose
WS3	Locate and correct errors in usage, spelling, and mechanics (e.g., subject-verb agreement, parallel construction, pronoun reference, punctuation, capitalization, sentence structure) using a variety of resources
WS5	Develop writing that contains ordered, related, well-developed paragraphs with sentences of varied lengths and patterns
WS8	Recognize differences between documentation and reference list styles
WS14	Use style manuals or software to prepare documentation and reference lists

Subunit: Writing—Meaning Construction

Competencies:

WM5	Engage in self-initiated writing activities
WM10	Recognize and refine personal writing styles

Subunit: Writing—Application

Competencies:

WA1	Apply appropriate writing techniques (e.g., prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, presenting) suitable for varied writing tasks
WA8	Apply an expanding vocabulary gained through writing
WA9	Make judicious use of reference sources (e.g., dictionary, thesaurus, online database, encyclopedia)

Subunit: Listening/Visual Literacy—Structure

Competencies:

LS3	Recognize correct and appropriate grammar, diction, and syntax
LS4	Expand vocabulary through listening to and viewing varied media (e.g., recordings, films, music, news broadcasts)

Subunit: Listening/Visual Literacy—Meaning Construction

Competencies:

LM1	Develop critical thinking skills necessary to evaluate media and assess oral presentations

Subunit: Listening/Visual Literacy—Application

Competencies:

LA1	Listen attentively during oral reading
LA6	Use technology and other media (e.g., videos, posters, maps, graphs, t-shirts) as means of expressing ideas

Subunit: Listening/Visual Literacy—Multidisciplinary

Competencies:

LM1	Facilitate learning across curriculum through critical listening and viewing
LM2	Engage in individual, small-group, and whole-group listening and viewing activities
LM5	Participate in a community of learners through productive listening

Subunit: Oral Communication—Structure

Competencies:

OS1	Refine oral communication skills (e.g., voice modulation, eye contact, body language)
OS2	Demonstrate knowledge of grammar, usage, and syntax when presenting
OS3	Select topics and vocabulary suitable to audience
OS4	Organize notes and ideas for speaking (e.g., cause-effect, chronological, exemplification)
OS7	Organize notes and ideas for formal, semiformal, and informal presentations of information
OS8	Refine speaking techniques for formal, semiformal, and informal settings
OS9	Develop repertoire of organizational strategies for presenting information orally
OS10	Expand vocabulary to fit topic
OS11	Select topics suitable to audience, situation, and purpose

Subunit: Oral Communications—Meaning Construction

Competencies:

OM1	Make connections between prior knowledge and new information for oral presentations
OM2	Participate in informal speaking activities (e.g., offering opinions, supporting statements, questions, clarification, entertainment)
OM3	Use interviewing techniques to gather information
OM4	Communicate orally to entertain and to inform
OM10	Communicate orally to inform and persuade
OM17	Analyze and synthesize information gathered from a variety of sources (e.g., interviews, hypermedia, reference works) for speaking
OM20	Describe topic or idea to clarify meaning for others

Subunit: Oral Communication—Application

Competencies:

OA1	Become proficient at using interviewing techniques
OA3	Develop and apply oral communication skills for cooperative/collaborative learning
OA5	Develop and apply decision-making strategies
OA6	Practice interviewing techniques
OA7	Apply interviewing techniques to purposeful interviews

Subunit: Oral Communications—Multidisciplinary

Competencies:

OM1	Value thinking and language of others
OM4	Participate actively in a community of learners

Unit: Mathematics Skills

Subunit: Numbers and Number Relations

Competencies:

NR1	Compare, order, and determine equivalence of real numbers
NR2	Estimate answers, compute, and solve problems involving real numbers

Subunit: Measurement

Competencies:

M1	Estimate and use measurements
M2	Understand the need for measurement and the probability that any measurement is accurate to some designated specification
M3	Understand and apply measurements related to power and work
M9	Construct and interpret maps, tables, charts, and graphs as they relate to real-world mathematics
M16	Develop an ability to identify real problems and provide possible solutions
M17	Express and apply different types of measurement scales

Subunit: Estimation and Mental Computation

Competencies:

E1	Use estimation to eliminate choices in multiple-choice tests
E2	Use estimation to determine reasonableness of problem situations in a wide variety of applications
E4	Use mental computation when computer and calculator are inappropriate

Subunit: Data Analysis and Probability

Competencies:

D1	Organize data into tables, charts, and graphs
D7	Read, interpret, and use tables, charts, and graphs to identify patterns, note trends, draw conclusions, and make predictions

Subunit: Algebra

Competencies:

A1	Describe problem situations by using and relating numerical, symbolic, and graphical representations
A29	Decide whether problem situation is best solved using computer, calculator, paper and pencil, or mental arithmetic/estimation techniques

Unit: Science Skills

Subunit: Scientific Inquiry

Competencies:

Q1	Check the appropriateness and accuracy of measures and computations using various strategies (e.g., estimations, unit analysis, determination of significant figures)
Q2	Use ratios, proportions, and probabilities in appropriate problem situations
Q3	Translate information from and represent information in various forms with equal ease (e.g., tables, charts, graphs, diagrams, geometric figures)
Q8	Design investigations that are safe and ethical (i.e., obtain consent and inform others of potential outcomes, risks, and benefits; and show evidence of concern for the health and safety of humans and nonhuman species)
Q11	Use appropriate units for counts and measures
Q25	Read, verify, debate, and, where necessary, refute research published in popular or technical journals of science (e.g., Discover, Omni, Popular Mechanics)
Q34	Create, standardize, and document procedures

Subunit: Applications for Science Learning

Competencies:

A12	Make decisions regarding personal and public health
A25	Use scientific evidence to consider options and formulate positions about the health and safety of others and self
A30	Refine personal career interests

Notes

Verification Panels

The Vocational Instructional Materials Laboratory wishes to extend thanks and appreciation to the many representatives of business, industry, labor, and community organizations who donated their time and expertise to the identification and revalidation of competencies.

The following panel was responsible for verifying the occupational competencies on the Dental Assistant OCAP, identifying those academic competencies that an entry-level employee should possess, and determining the Work Keys academic skill levels required for successful entry into the occupation:

Rebecca Clatty, CDA, *Allan R. Weinstein, DDS*, Cincinnati, Ohio
Louis P. DiOrio, DDS, *The Ohio State University*, Columbus, Ohio
Victoria L. Fulk, CDA, *Advanced Dental Placement*, Columbus, Ohio
Debra S. Heban, CDA, AQP, *Toledo Area Private Industry Council/ Dental Placement*, Toledo, Ohio
Mary Jane Kauffman, CDA, *Cleveland Clinic Foundation*, Cleveland, Ohio
Carla Powell, CDA, AQP, *Ohio Dental Family Center*, Columbus, Ohio
Beth Staley, CODA, *Donald E. Gordon, DDS*, Wadsworth, Ohio
Toni Ellen Svec, CDA, *David G. Edwards, DDS*, Wellsburg, West Virginia
June A. Wilson, CDA, *Jerry Rotella, DDS*, Loveland, Ohio
Deborah D. Wright, CDA, *Irwin R. Weiner, DDS*, Akron, Ohio

The following panel was responsible for verifying the competencies on the Employability OCAP:

Barbara J. Forster, *Nationwide Insurance*, Columbus, Ohio
Joan L. Hall, *Health Management Nursing*, Chesapeake, Ohio
Jane Highland, *Southern Ohio Staffing, Inc.*, Chillicothe, Ohio
Chuck Jackson, *Butech, Inc.*, Salem, Ohio
Garry Kessel, *Medina Auto Parts, Inc.*, Medina, Ohio
Joyce A. McMickens, *Ernst & Young*, Cleveland, Ohio
Julie C. Payeff, *The Andersons Management Corp.*, Maumee, Ohio
Patricia Piper, *Edison Industrial Systems Center*, Toledo, Ohio
Gary F. Rybak, *Red Roof Inns, Inc.*, Hilliard, Ohio